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HISTORY  
OF  
PUTNAM COUNTY  
OHIO

ITS PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

By  
GEORGE D. KINDER

---

With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and  
Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families

---

ILLUSTRATED

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1915  
B. F. BOWEN & COMPANY, Inc.  
Indianapolis, Indiana

KC

PUTNAM COUNTY  
OHIO

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## DEDICATION.

To the dear, departed ones, whose busy hands changed the giant forests into fertile fields; whose love of home established the hearthstones, the tender ties of which yet bind together the heartstrings of the native born; whose patriotism gave the best of their lives and substance for the defense of their country; whose graves make sacred the soil their feet so often trod.

A.

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## EDITOR'S FOREWORD

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In writing the history of a county, the local historian is confined to a relatively small unit and is not expected to go outside of the limits of the county only in so far as to make explanatory the relation of the county to contiguous counties or to the state at large. The historian is also handicapped by all the tradition which is handed down through succeeding generations, traditions with little or no historical background and bordering on the romantic. While tradition is often connected with history, it does not often carry with it the substratum of fact which should characterize real historical narrative. Personal feelings and quixotic whims find expression in the tales of our forbears and are repeated so often that they are finally accepted as the truth. The purpose of the author of this history is to separate fiction from fact; to present in a simple and succinct manner those facts which will show the place of Putnam county among its sister counties in the state; to preserve for future generations the story of the privations and hardships which confronted our good forefathers four score years ago.

The writer, many years ago, had collected a lot of mis-information as to the early events of this part of the state, and especially to that part now comprehended within Putnam county. This supposed historical material was submitted to a pioneer of the county, a man who was in every way qualified to pass on its truthfulness. To my great surprise, he informed the writer that in most instances the supposed facts were nothing more than romantic tales, interesting, but with no basis of truth. Thus the author of this history was deprived of what he had considered a large amount of valuable historical data, but he is to be congratulated in discovering the difficulty of getting exact historical information. This history is an attempt to present the real truth about the growth of the county, and every event which would not stand the historical test has been discarded. Thus, many tales of romance are necessarily omitted; many supposed facts have been found to be without the semblance of truth, and hence find no place in this volume.

This history seeks to give such a review of the origin and development of the county as will make it possible for our children and our children's children to appreciate the lives and labors of those who have made this county

what it is today. We are proud of our towns, our broad, cultivated fields, our schools and churches, our beautiful homes. We take a pardonable pride in living in a county where peace and harmony dwell, where the people enjoy those blessings vouchsafed to them by the laws of an indulgent nation.

In order that the present generation may breathe the same spirit which animated the pioneers of this county, it is necessary to go back to the time when the Indian roamed this part of the state; when the beaver plied his trade, unmolested by the white man; when the uncut forest and undrained swamps presented more terrors than the wild inhabitants thereof. It will be necessary to tell of the time when France had control of this territory and of the time when England drove the French from this country. The Revolutionary War is a part of the history of Putnam county and it comes in for a share of attention; the War of 1812 is still closer allied with the history of the county and it is briefly noticed.

We have tried to recite these facts so that our coming generations may become familiar with them and thereby have a clearer understanding of the sterling men and women who have preceded them. May this presentation imbue us with a greater love for our county, our state and our nation, and may we highly resolve that we will strive to do our share toward making Putnam county the best county in the state. With this introduction, we submit that which follows.

THE EDITOR.



# PREFACE

---

All life and achievement is evolution; present wisdom comes from past experience, and present commercial prosperity has come only from past exertion and suffering. The deeds and motives of the men who have gone before have been instrumental in shaping the destinies of later communities and state. The development of a new country was at once a task and a privilege. It required great courage, sacrifice and privation. Compare the present conditions of the people of Putnam county, Ohio, with what they were one hundred years ago. From a trackless wilderness and virgin land, it has come to be a center of prosperity and civilization, with millions of wealth, systems of railways, grand educational institutions, splendid industries and immense agricultural and mineral productions. Can any thinking person be insensible to the fascination of the study which discloses the aspirations and efforts of the early pioneers who so strongly laid the foundation upon which has been reared the magnificent prosperity of later days? To perpetuate the story of these people and to trace and record the social, political and industrial progress of the community from its first inception is the function of the local historian. A sincere purpose to preserve facts and personal memoirs that are deserving of perpetuation, and which unite the present to the past, is the motive for the present publication. A specially valuable and interesting department is that one devoted to the sketches of representative citizens of this county whose records deserve preservation because of their worth, effort and accomplishment. The publishers desire to extend their thanks to the gentlemen who have so faithfully labored to this end. Thanks are also due to the citizens of Putnam county for the uniform kindness with which they have regarded this undertaking, and for their many services rendered in the gaining of necessary information.

In placing the "History of Putnam County, Ohio," before the citizens, the publishers can conscientiously claim that they have carried out the plan as outlined in the prospectus. Every biographical sketch in the work has been submitted to the party interested, for correction, and therefore any error of fact, if there be any, is solely due to the person for whom the sketch was prepared. Confident that our effort to please will fully meet the approbation of the public, we are,

Respectfully,

THE PUBLISHERS.



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# HISTORICAL

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## CHAPTER I.

### RELATED STATE HISTORY.

The first white men to set foot upon the Northwest Territory were French traders and missionaries under the leadership of La Salle. This was about the year 1670 and subsequent discoveries and explorations in this region by the French gave that nation practically undisputed possession of all the territory organized in 1787 as the Northwest Territory. It is true that the English colonies of Virginia, Connecticut and Massachusetts claimed that their charters extended their grants westward to the Mississippi river. However, France claimed this territory and successfully maintained possession of it until the close of the French and Indian War in 1763. At that time the treaty of Paris transferred all of the French claims east of the Mississippi river to England, as well as all claims of France to territory on the mainland of North America. For the next twenty years the Northwest Territory was under the undisputed control of England, but became a part of the United States by the treaty which terminated the Revolutionary War in 1783. Thus the flags of three nations have floated over the territory now comprehended within the present state of Ohio—the tri-color of France, the union jack of England and the stars and stripes of the United States.

History will record the fact that there was another nation, however, which claimed possession of this territory and, while the Indians can hardly be called a nation, yet they made a gallant fight to retain their hunting grounds. The real owners of this territory struggled against heavy odds to maintain their supremacy and it was not until the battle of Tippecanoe, in the fall of 1811, that the Indians gave up the unequal struggle. Tecumseh, the Washington of his race, fought fiercely to save this territory for his people, but the white man finally overwhelmed him, and “Lo, the poor Indian” was pushed westward across the Mississippi. The history of the Northwest

Territory is full of the bitter fights which the Indian waged in trying to drive the white man out, and the defeat which the Indians inflicted on General St. Clair on November 4, 1792, will go down in the annals of American history as the worst defeat which an American army ever suffered at the hands of the Indians. The greatest battle which has ever been fought in the United States against the Indians occurred in the state of Ohio. This was the battle of Fallen Timbers and occurred August 20, 1794, the scene of the battle being within the present county of Defiance. After the close of the Revolutionary War the Indians, urged on by the British, caused the settlers in the Northwest Territory continual trouble and defeated every detachment sent against them previous to their defeat by Gen. Anthony Wayne at the battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794. Although there was some trouble with the Indians after this time, they never offered serious resistance after this memorable defeat until the fall of 1811, when Gen. William Henry Harrison completely routed them at the battle of Tippecanoe.

#### TERRITORY NORTHWEST OF THE OHIO (1670-1754).

Ohio was the first state created out of the old Northwest Territory, although Indiana had been previously organized as a territory. When the land comprehended within the Northwest Territory was discovered by the French under La Salle about 1670, it was a battle ground of various Indian tribes, although the Eries, who were located along the shores of Lake Erie, were the only ones with a more or less definite territory. From 1670 to 1763, the close of the French and Indian War, the French were in possession of this territory and established their claims in a positive manner by extensive exploration and scattered settlements. The chief centers of French settlement were at Detroit, Vincennes, Kaskaskia, Cahokia, Fort Crevecoeur and at several missionary stations around the shores of the great lakes. The French did not succeed in doing this without incurring the hostility of the Iroquois Indians, a bitter enmity which was brought about chiefly because the French helped the Shawnees, Wyandots and Miamis to drive the Iroquois out of the territory west of the Muskingum river in Ohio.

It must not be forgotten that the English also laid claim to the Northwest Territory, basing their claim on the discoveries of the Cabots and the subsequent charters of Virginia, Massachusetts and Connecticut. These charters extended the limits of these three colonies westward to the Pacific ocean, although, as a matter of fact, none of the three colonies made a settlement west of the Alleghanies until after the Revolutionary War. New York

sought to strengthen her claim to territory west of the Alleghanies in 1701, by getting from the Iroquois, the bitter enemies of the French, a grant to the territory from which the French and their Indian allies had previously expelled them. Although this grant was renewed in 1726 and again confirmed in 1744, it gave New York only a nominal claim and one which was never recognized by the French in any way.

English traders from Pennsylvania and Virginia began in 1730 to pay more attention to the claims of their country west of the Alleghanies and north of the Ohio river. When their activities reached the ears of the French the governor of French Canada sent Céleron de Bienville up and down the Ohio and the rivers and streams running into it from the north and took formal possession of the territory by planting lead plates at the mouth of every river and stream of any importance. This peculiar method of the French in seeking to establish their claims occurred in the year 1749 and opened the eyes of England to the necessity of taking some immediate action. George II, the king of England at the time, at once granted a charter for the first Ohio Company (there were two others by the same name later organized), composed of London merchants and enterprising Virginians, and the company at once proceeded to formulate plans to secure possession of the territory north of the Ohio and west of the Mississippi. Christopher Gist was sent down the Ohio river in 1750 to explore the country as far west as the mouth of the Scioto river, and made several treaties with the Indians. Things were now rapidly approaching a crisis and it was soon evident that there would be a struggle of arms between England and France for the disputed region. In 1754 the English started to build a fort at the confluence of the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers, on the site of the present city of Pittsburgh, but before the fort was completed the French appeared on the scene, drove the English away and finished the fort which had been begun.

#### FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR (1754-63).

The crisis had finally come. The struggle which followed between the two nations ultimately resulted in the expulsion of the French from the mainland of America as well as from the immediate territory in dispute. The war is known in America as the French and Indian War and in the history of the world as the Seven Years' War, the latter designation being due to the fact that it lasted that length of time. The struggle developed into a world-wide conflict and the two nations fought over three continents, America, Europe and Asia. It is not within the province of this resume of

the history of Ohio to go into the details of this memorable struggle. It is sufficient for the purpose at hand to state that the treaty of Paris, which terminated the war in 1763, left France without any of her former possessions on the mainland of America.

#### PONTIAC'S CONSPIRACY (1763-64).

With the English in control of America east of the Mississippi river and the French regime forever ended, the Indians next command the attention of the historian who deals with the Northwest Territory. The French were undoubtedly responsible for stirring up their former Indian allies and Pontiac's conspiracy must be credited to the influence of that nation. This formidable uprising was successfully overthrown by Henry Bouquet, who led an expedition in 1764 into the present state of Ohio and compelled the Wyandots, Delawares and Shawnees to sue for peace.

#### NORTHWEST TERRITORY AND QUEBEC ACT.

From 1764 to 1774, no events of particular importance occurred within the territory north of the Ohio river, but in the latter year (June 22, 1774), England, then at the breaking point with the colonies, passed the Quebec act, which attached this territory to the province of Quebec for administrative purposes. This intensified the feeling of resentment which the colonies bore against their mother country and is given specific mention in their list of grievances which they enumerated in their Declaration of Independence. The Revolutionary War came on at once and this act, of course, was never put into execution.

#### REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD (1775-83).

During the War for Independence (1775-1783), the various states with claims to western lands agreed with the Continental Congress to surrender their claims to the national government. In fact, the Articles of Confederation were not signed until all of the states had agreed to do this and Maryland withheld her assent to the articles until March 1, 1780, on this account. In accordance with this agreement New York ceded her claim to the United States in 1780, Virginia in 1784, Massachusetts in 1785 and Connecticut in 1786, although the latter state excepted a one-hundred-and-twenty-mile strip of three million five hundred thousand acres bordering on Lake Erie. This

strip was formally relinquished in 1800, with the understanding that the United States would guarantee the titles already issued by that state. Virginia was also allowed a reservation, known as the Virginia Military District, which lay between the Little Miami and Scioto rivers, the same being for distribution among her Revolutionary veterans. There is one other fact which should be mentioned in connection with the territory north of the Ohio in the Revolutionary period. This was the memorable conquest of the territory by Gen. George Rogers Clark. During the years 1778 and 1779, this redoubtable leader captured Kaskaskia, Cahokia and Vincennes and thereby drove the English out of the Northwest Territory. It is probable that this notable campaign secured this territory for the Americans and that without it we would not have had it included in our possessions in the treaty which closed the Revolutionary War.

#### FIRST SURVEYS AND EARLY SETTLERS.

The next period in the history of the territory north of the Ohio begins with the passage of a congressional act (May 20, 1785), which provided for the present system of land surveys into townships six miles square. As soon as this was put into operation, settlers—and most Revolutionary soldiers—began to pour into the newly surveyed territory. A second Ohio Company was organized in the spring of 1786, made up chiefly of Revolutionary officers and soldiers from New England, and this company proposed to establish a state somewhere between Lake Erie and the Ohio River. At this juncture Congress realized that definite steps should be made at once for some kind of government over this extensive territory, a territory which now includes the present states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and about a third of Minnesota. Various plans were proposed in Congress and most of the sessions of 1786 and the first half of 1787 were consumed in trying to formulate a suitable form of government for the extensive territory. The result of all these deliberations resulted in the famous Ordinance of 1787, which was finally passed on July 13, 1787.

#### ORDINANCE OF 1787.

There have been many volumes written about this instrument of government and to this day there is a difference of opinion as to who was its author. The present article can do no more than merely sketch its outline and set forth the main provisions. It was intended to provide only a tem-

porary government and to serve until such a time as the population of the territory would warrant the creation of states with the same rights and privileges which the thirteen original states enjoyed. It stipulated that not less than three nor more than five states should ever be created out of the whole territory and the maximum number was finally organized, although it was not until 1848 that the last state, Wisconsin, was admitted to the Union. The third article, "Religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged," has given these five states the basis for their excellent system of public schools, state normals, colleges and universities. Probably the most widely discussed article was the sixth, which provided that slavery and involuntary servitude should never be permitted within the territory and by the use of the word "forever" made the territory free for all time. It is interesting to note in this connection that both Indiana and Illinois before their admission to the Union sought to have this provision set aside, but every petition from the two states was refused by Congress in accordance with the provision of the Ordinance.

#### FIRST STAGE OF GOVERNMENT UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

The ordinance contemplated two grades of territorial government. During the operation of the first grade of government the governor, his secretary and the three judges provided by the ordinance were to be appointed by Congress and the governor in turn was to appoint "such magistrates and other civil officers in each county and township as he shall deem necessary for the preservation of the peace and good will of the same." After the federal government was organized a statutory provision took the appointment of these officers out of the hands of Congress and placed it in the hands of the President of the United States. All executive authority was given to the governor, all judicial authority to the three judges, while the governor and judges, in joint session, constituted the legislative body. This means that during the first stage of territorial government the people had absolutely no voice in the affairs of government and this state of affairs lasted until 1799, a period of twelve years.

#### SECOND STAGE OF GOVERNMENT UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

The second stage of government in the territory was to begin whenever the governor was satisfied that there were at least five thousand free male

inhabitants of the age of twenty-one and above. The main difference between the first and second stages of territorial government lay in the fact that the legislative functions were taken from the governor and judges and given to a "general assembly or legislature." The ordinance provided for the election of one representative for each five hundred free male inhabitants, the tenure of the office to be two years. While the members of the lower house were to be elected by the qualified voters of the territory, the upper house, to consist of five members, were to be appointed by Congress in a somewhat complicated manner. The house of representatives were to select ten men and these ten names were to be sent to Congress and out of this number five were to be selected by Congress. This provision, like the appointment of the governor, was later changed so as to make the upper house the appointees of the President of the United States. The five men so selected were called councilors and held office for five years.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY.

The first governor of the newly organized territory was Gen. Arthur St. Clair, a gallant soldier of the Revolution, who was appointed on October 5, 1787, and ordered to report for duty on the first of the following February. He held the office until November 22, 1802, when he was dismissed by President Jefferson "for the disorganizing spirit, and tendency of every example, violating the rules of conduct enjoined by his public station, as displayed in his address to the convention." The governor's duties were performed by his secretary, Charles W. Byrd, until March 1, 1803, when the state officials took their office. The first judges appointed were Samuel Holden Parsons, James Mitchell Varnum and John Armstrong. Before the time came for the judges to qualify, Armstrong resigned and John Cleves Symmes was appointed in his place. The first secretary was Winthrop Sargent, who held the position until he was appointed governor of Mississippi Territory by the President on May 2, 1798. Sargent was succeeded by William Henry Harrison, who was appointed by the President on June 26, 1798, and confirmed by the Senate two days later. Harrison was later elected as the first delegate of the organized Northwest Territory to Congress and the President then appointed Charles Willing Byrd as secretary of the Territory, Byrd's appointment being confirmed by the Senate on December 31, 1799.

## REPRESENTATIVE STAGE OF GOVERNMENT (1799-1803).

The Northwest Territory remained under the government of the first stage until September 16, 1799, when it formally advanced to the second or representative stage. In the summer of 1798 Governor St. Clair had ascertained that the territory had a population of at least five thousand free male inhabitants and, in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance of 1787, was ready to make the change in its form of government. On October 29, 1798, the governor issued a proclamation to the qualified voters of the territory directing them to choose members for the lower house of the Territorial Legislature at an election to be held on the third Monday of the following December. The twenty-two members so elected met on January 16, 1799, and, pursuant to the provisions of the ordinance, selected the ten men from whom the President of the United States later chose five for the Legislative Council. They then adjourned to meet on September 16, 1799, but since there was not a quorum on that day they held adjourned sessions until the 23rd, at which time a quorum was present.

At the time the change in the form of government went into effect there were only nine counties in the whole territory. These counties had been organized either by the governor or his secretary. The following table gives the nine counties organized before 1799, with the dates of their organization and the number of legislators proportioned to each by the governor:

County.	Date of organization.	Number of representatives.
Washington -----	July 27, 1788 -----	2
Hamilton -----	January 4, 1790 -----	7
St. Clair -----	April 27, 1790 -----	1
Knox -----	June 20, 1790 -----	1
Randolph -----	October 5, 1795 -----	1
Wayne -----	August 6, 1796 -----	3
Adams -----	July 10, 1797 -----	2
Jefferson -----	July 29, 1797 -----	1
Ross -----	August 20, 1798 -----	4

## FIRST TERRITORIAL LEGISLATURE OF NORTHWEST TERRITORY.

The twenty-two representatives and five councilors were the first representative body to meet in the Northwest Territory and they represented a



constituency scattered over a territory of more than two hundred and sixty-five thousand square miles, an area greater than Germany or France, or even Austria-Hungary. It would be interesting to tell something of the deliberations of these twenty-seven sterling pioneers, but the limits of the present article forbid. It is necessary, however, to make mention of one important thing which they did in view of the fact that it throws much light on the subsequent history of the Northwest Territory.

#### DIVISION OF 1800.

The Legislature was authorized to elect a delegate to Congress and two candidates for the honor presented their names to the Legislature, William Henry Harrison and Arthur St. Clair, Jr., the son of the governor. The Legislature, by a joint ballot on October 3, 1799, elected Harrison by a vote of eleven to ten. The defeat of his son undoubtedly had considerable to do with the subsequent estrangement which arose between the governor and his legislature and incidentally hastened the division of the Northwest Territory. Within two years from the time the territory had advanced to the second stage of government the division had taken place. On May 7, 1800, Congress passed an act dividing the Northwest Territory by a line drawn from the mouth of the Kentucky river to Fort Recovery, in Mercer county, Ohio, and thence due north to the boundary line between the United States and Canada. Governor St. Clair favored the division because he thought it would delay the organization of a state and thus give him a longer lease on his position, but he did not favor the division as finally determined. He was constantly growing in disfavor with the people on account of his overbearing manner and he felt that he would get rid of some of his bitterest enemies if the western inhabitants were set off into a new territory. However, the most of the credit for the division must be given to Harrison, who, as a delegate to Congress, was in a position to have the most influence. Harrison also was satisfied that in case a new territory should be formed he would be appointed its first governor and he was not disappointed. The territory west of the line above mentioned was immediately organized and designated as Indiana Territory, while the eastern portion retained the existing government and the old name—Northwest Territory. It is frequently overlooked that the Northwest Territory existed in fact and in name up until March 1, 1803.

## CENSUS OF NORTHWEST TERRITORY IN 1800.

The division of 1800 left the Northwest Territory with only about one-third of its original area. The census of the territory taken by the United States government in 1800 showed it to have a total population of forty-five thousand three hundred and sixty-five, which fell short by about fifteen thousand of being sufficient for the creation of a state as provided by the Ordinance of 1787, which fixed the minimum population at sixty thousand. The counties left in the Northwest Territory, with their respective population, are set forth in the appended table, all of which were within the present state of Ohio, except Wayne:

Adams .....	3,432
Hamilton .....	14,632
Jefferson .....	8,766
Ross .....	8,540
Trumbull .....	1,302
Washington .....	5,427
Wayne .....	3,206
<hr/>	
Total .....	45,365

The population as classified by the census with respect to age and sex is interesting and particularly so in showing that considerably more than one-third of the total population were children under ten years of age.

	Males.	Females.
Whites up to ten years of age.....	9,362	8,644
Whites from ten to sixteen.....	3,647	3,353
Whites from sixteen to twenty-six....	4,636	3,861
Whites from twenty-six to forty-five---	4,833	3,342
Whites forty-five and upward.....	1,955	1,395
<hr/>		<hr/>
Total .....	24,433	
<hr/>		<hr/>
Total of both sexes.....		
Total of other persons, not Indians----		337
<hr/>		<hr/>
Grand Total .....		

45,365

A digression is necessary at this point in order to trace the growth of settlement of the territory now within the present state of Ohio up to 1803, when it was admitted to the Union as a state. Marietta, founded in July, 1788, by the Ohio Company, is the oldest permanent settlement in the state. A number of New Jersey settlers were organized by John Cleves Symmes, and Symmes succeeded in securing a grant of land from Congress (1788-1792) containing two hundred forty-eight thousand five hundred and forty acres, located between the Great Miami and Little Miami rivers. This grant of land is known in Ohio history as the Symmes purchase and contained the settlements of Columbia (1788) and Cincinnati (1789), although the latter place was first christened Losantiville. The man who devised this name exercised no small amount of ingenuity in its manufacture. The proposed settlement happened to be located at the mouth of the Licking river and this circumstance, with a little knowledge of Latin and a vivid imagination, was responsible for this hybrid word. The Latin word for town is "villa," which is Anglicized into "ville;" the Latin for opposite is "anti" and for mouth "os." These three Latin words account for the completed word, with the exception of the "L," and this letter is the initial letter of Licking. To make the word clear it must be read backward, syllable at a time—thus L-os-anti-ville, which being interpreted means the town opposite the mouth of the Licking.

The Virginia Military District, to which reference has been made, was settled largely by people from that state. The Connecticut Reserve, along Lake Erie, attracted many settlers from that state, among whom should be mentioned Moses Cleaveland, who, in 1796, founded the city which bears his name. The northern part of the state did not begin to fill up rapidly until after 1832, when the Ohio-Erie canal was opened for traffic. There have been estimates running from fifteen to twenty thousand as to the number of people who floated down the Ohio river within a year after the Ordinance of 1787 went into effect.

#### COUNTY ORGANIZATION (1788-1810).

It has already been stated that there were nine counties within the Northwest Territory in 1799, when it advanced to the second stage of territorial government. According to the provisions of the ordinance, the creation of new counties was in the hands of the governor, although after the federal constitution went into effect the secretary was also given the same power. Knox and Wayne counties were started by Secretary Winthrop Sar-

gent according to this provision. The state of Ohio is now divided into eighty-eight counties, ten of which were created before the state was admitted to the Union on March 1, 1803. The counties organized by Governor St. Clair, or his secretary, from 1788, when Washington county was organized, up to 1803, when the state was admitted to the Union, are ten in number: Washington, Hamilton, Wayne, Adams, Jefferson, Ross, Trumbull, Clermont, Fairfield and Belmont. The dates of the creation of the first six have already been given. Trumbull county was organized on July 10, 1800; Clermont and Fairfield, December 9, 1800; Belmont, September 7, 1801. Between the years 1803 and 1810, when Fayette county was organized, there were no less than twenty-four counties organized within the state of Ohio. The first session of the General Assembly of the state organized eight counties, as follows: Franklin, Gallia, Greene, Scioto, Warren, Butler, Montgomery and Columbiana. Muskingum started its independent existence on the first day of March, 1804. In 1805 there were four counties created, Champaign, Athens, Geauga and Highland. The session of 1807 added four more to the rapidly growing state, Miami, Ashtabula, Cuyahoga and Portage. The following year saw six new counties opened for entry, Delaware, Stark, Tuscarawas, Preble, Knox and Licking. One county, Huron, was created in 1809. The five counties organized in 1810 included Fayette, Pickaway, Guernsey, Clinton and Madison. This makes a total of thirty-nine counties up to and including the year 1810. In this year Cincinnati, the largest city of the state, boasted of a population of two thousand three hundred and twenty.

#### INDIAN WARS (1787-1803).

The period from 1787 to 1803 in the Northwest Territory was marked by several bitter conflicts with the Indians. Just as at the close of the French and Indian War had the French stirred up the Indians against the Americans, so at the close of the Revolutionary War did the English do the same thing. This inciting of the Indians by the British was one of the causes of the War of 1812, a struggle which has very appropriately been called the second War for Independence. The various uprisings of the Indians up to 1794 retarded the influx of settlers and was a constant menace to those who did venture into the territory. Three distinct campaigns were waged against the Indians during this period before they were finally subdued. The first campaign was under the command of Gen. Josiah Harmar, 1790, and resulted in a decisive defeat for the whites. The second expedition was under the leadership of Gen. Arthur St. Clair, the governor of the Territory, and

was marked by one of the worst defeats ever suffered by an American army at the hands of the Indians. A lack of knowledge of Indian methods of warfare, combined with reckless mismanagement, sufficiently accounts for both disasters. It remained for Gen. Anthony Wayne, the "Mad Anthony" of Revolutionary fame, to bring the Indians to terms. The battle which closed his campaign against the Indians is known as the battle of Fallen Timbers and was fought on August 20, 1794. The scene of the battle lies along the Maumee river within the limits of the present county of Defiance. This crushing defeat of the Indians, a rout in which they had lost twelve out of thirteen chiefs, was so complete that the Indians were glad to sue for peace. On June 10, 1795, delegates from the various Indian tribes, headed by their chiefs, met at Greenville, Ohio, to formulate a treaty. The United States government appointed General Wayne as commissioner plenipotentiary to draft the treaty and, after nearly two months of bickering, a treaty was drawn up on August 3, 1795. It was signed by General Wayne on behalf of the United States and by ninety chiefs and the delegates of twelve interested tribes. The treaty was faithfully kept by the Indians and ever afterwards Little Turtle, the real leader of the Indians, was a true friend of the whites. It may be said that this battle of Fallen Timbers was the most important battle fought in America between the close of the War for Independence and the battle of Tippecanoe in the fall of 1811. To General Anthony Wayne will remain the honor of opening the way for permanent settlement of the Northwest Territory.

#### THE FORMATION OF A NEW STATE.

The three years intervening between the creation of Indiana Territory (May 7, 1800) and the admission of Ohio to the Union (March 1, 1803), are marked by an acrimonious struggle during which Governor St. Clair was constantly growing in disfavor with his Legislature and the great mass of the people of the territory. The Legislature wanted a state formed as soon as possible and succeeded in getting Congress to pass an act, April 30, 1802, authorizing the calling of a constitutional convention. This act established the limits of the proposed new state as follows: "That part of the Northwest Territory bounded east by Pennsylvania, south by the Ohio river, west by a line drawn from the mouth of the Big Miami river due north to an east and west line passing through the south extremity of Lake Michigan, and by this line and the Canada line through Lake Erie to the west line of Pennsylvania." Since these boundaries omitted the eastern half of the present

state of Michigan which had been left a part of the Northwest Territory by the division of May 7, 1800, it was denounced as a fraud by the Federalists in the omitted territory. However, it is very plain that Congress carried out the intent of the Ordinance of 1787 by their act and the charge of political trickery fails of substantiation in the light of the specific provisions therein set forth regarding the creation of states out of the Northwest Territory. The enabling act provided for an election of delegates to the constitutional convention to be held in September of the same year (1802), the delegates to meet at Chillicothe on the first Monday of the following November. The thirty-five delegates met at the appointed time and by a vote of thirty-four to one, the negative vote being cast by Ephraim Cutler, decided to proceed at once to the organization of a state government and the formation of a constitution. The convention was in session until November 29th, at which time it had completed the first constitution for the state and the one which lasted until 1851, when a second constitution was adopted.

#### WHEN WAS OHIO ADMITTED TO THE UNION?

It is interesting to note the difficulty which Ohio historians have had in trying to fix upon the date which marks the formal admission of the state to the Union.

The natal day of Ohio has given rise to more dispute than the natal day of any other state in the Union. This is undoubtedly due to the fact that Congress never passed an act formally admitting it to the Union. There have been no less than five dates assigned by as many different authorities and each group of historians substantiate their claim by the citation of facts. These five dates are as follows: April 30, 1802; November 29, 1802; February 19, 1803; March 1, 1803; March 3, 1803.

The first date (April 30, 1802) has for its chief sponsor the editor of the "United States Statutes at Large." This date is not tenable at all, since the territorial judges were in office for several months after this date and were, by the congressional act of February 21, 1806, paid their full salaries up to March 1, 1803. The second date (November 29, 1802) is advanced by Hickey in his volume, "The Constitution," on the ground that the constitution was adopted on that day. The third date (February 19, 1803) has been held by several good authorities, notably, Caleb Atwater, in his "Political Manual;" G. W. Pascal, in his "Annotated Constitution," and the late president of Marietta College, I. W. Andrews. It was upon this date that Congress passed an act to "provide for the due execution of the laws of the

United States within the state of Ohio." This would seem to indicate that Congress recognized February 19, 1803, as the date of the admission of Ohio to the Union, but when it is recalled that Congress had not yet appointed the necessary judicial officers it must be concluded that this is not the proper date. The fourth date (March 1, 1803) is now recognized officially as the actual day on which Ohio formally entered the Union, although it was an act of Congress passed nearly three years later which definitely settled this fact. The question arose in 1806 in Congress regarding the payment of the territorial officers and the act of February 21st of that year ordered that the governor and judges be paid for their services up to March 1, 1803. There can be no question but that Congress placed its official approval on this date as being the first day of Ohio's existence as a separate state. The fifth and last date (March 3, 1803) was advanced as the real date of the admission of the state, for the reason that on this date Congress gave its approval to certain changes in the constitution of the state which had been adopted on November 29, 1802. These changes related to the disposition of certain school lands within the state and were of minor importance and in no sense advocated any radical changes in the constitution of the state. However, on March 3, 1803, the state had been in full operation for a space of three days and exercising all the rights and privileges of a state; the governor had been installed; the Legislature was in session and the various state officials were discharging their duties in accordance with the constitution. Thus it must be concluded from all available evidence that Ohio was admitted to the Union on March 1, 1803.

#### CAPITALS OF NORTHWEST TERRITORY AND OHIO.

The capital of the Northwest Territory was located within the present limits of Ohio during the whole existence of the Territory both before and after the division of the Territory in 1800. When the Ordinance of 1787 was formally put into operation, on July 17, 1788, the capital was established at Marietta, the name being chosen by the directors of the Ohio Company on July 2, 1788. The name of Marietta was selected in honor of the French Queen Marie Antoinette, compounded by a curious combination of the first and last syllables of her name.

The capital remained at Marietta until 1800, when it was moved by the congressional act of May 7th of that year to Chillicothe and by the constitution adopted in 1802 the capital was to remain there at least until 1808. The Legislature of 1809 moved the capital to Zanesville until such time as a

permanent site should be selected. The Legislature at the same time that it moved the capital to Zanesville appointed commissioners to report at the following sessions "the most eligible and central spot for permanently establishing it." The approaching War of 1812 made it necessary to take the capital back to Chillicothe, where there was less danger from attack by the Indians and British. The commissioners appointed by the Legislature of 1809 selected a small village by the name of Dublin, on the Scioto, about fourteen miles north of Columbus, but the Legislature refused to abide by their choice.

The capital was permanently located at Columbus by the legislative act of February 14, 1812, although no less than nine different sites were under consideration before the final decision was made. The act selecting the site did not choose a name for the proposed city and this honor belongs to Joseph Foos, the senator from Franklin county, who had been largely instrumental in the selection of the Legislature. At that time there was a solitary log cabin on the site and the whole tract was covered with a dense forest. The act of February 17, 1816, formally designated Columbus as the capital "from and after the second Tuesday of October, 1816." During the War of 1812, and until the buildings were ready at Columbus, the capital remained at Chillicothe.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY OF OHIO.

The state of Ohio has had four constitutional conventions: 1802, 1850-51, 1873-74 and 1912. The constitution of 1802, it is interesting to note, was never submitted to the people for ratification. Between the adoption of the first and second constitutions there was an effort to hold a constitutional convention. A resolution, passed December 25, 1818, authorized a vote on the question of holding a constitutional convention, but at the election which was subsequently held it was decided adversely by a vote of 29,315 to 6,987.

The main facts concerning the second constitutional convention may be briefly summed up as follows: The Legislature on October 9, 1849, authorized a vote on the question of holding a convention and the voters of the state cast a majority of 94,531 in favor of the constitutional convention. The vote stood 145,698 for and 51,167 against the convention. On April 1, 1850, the one hundred and eight delegates were elected and on the 6th of the following May they met at Columbus. The convention was in continuous session until July 9, 1850, and then, not having yet completed their deliberations, adjourned to meet again on December 2, 1850. The second session continued to hold daily meetings until March 10, 1851, when it finally concluded its labors after having spent a total of one hundred and sixty-three



days. The constitution was submitted to the people of the state on June 17, 1851, and adopted by a vote of 125,564 to 109,276.

An attempt to adopt a new constitution was made in 1874, but failed. On March 30, 1871, the Legislature provided for a vote on the question of holding a constitutional convention and at an election held October 10, 1871, it was decided, by a vote of 267,618 to 104,231, to hold such a convention. On April 6, 1873, the one hundred and five delegates to the convention were elected and on the 13th of the following month they met and organized. The convention continued in session from that date until August 8th, and, after a recess, met on December 2d and remained in continuous session until May 15th of the following year. The convention held daily sessions for one hundred and eighty days, one of the longest constitutional conventions ever held in the United States. With all this deliberation it would seem that a satisfactory constitution could have been framed, but the voters of the state, on August 18, 1874, rejected it by a vote of 250,169 to 102,885. This expensive attempt to make a new constitution was sufficient to thwart all efforts along this line for several years. However, the changes in economic, social and industrial conditions became more pronounced year by year, and on March 9, 1909, the Legislature submitted the question of holding a constitutional convention. At an election held on November 8, 1910, it was decided, by a vote of 693,263 to 67,718, to select delegates to a constitutional convention. The convention met on the second Tuesday of January, 1912, and remained in session until June 8, 1912, when it finally concluded its labors. This convention submitted forty-two changes in the existing constitution and on September 3d of the same year the qualified voters of the state accepted all but eight of the proposed amendments. The eight amendments lost are as follows: Suffrage, good roads, advertising, injunctions, capital punishment, voting machines, eligibility of women and elimination of word "white" from the constitution. The amendments which carried by various majorities concerned the following subjects: Jury system, depositions, suits, wrongful death, initiative and referendum, investigations, limiting veto, mechanics' lien, welfare, compensations, conservation of natural resources, eight-hour day, removal of officials, expert testimony, land titles, prison contracts, extra sessions, reform of the judiciary, county judges, justices, school boards, school commissioners, insurance abolishing of board of public works, taxation, corporations, double liability, state printing, civil service, submission of amendments, home rule for cities, schedule and license. The fight was the most bitter on woman's suffrage and the initiative and referendum. The

vote on the first proposition was 249,420 to 336,875, and was defeated largely on account of the activity of the liquor interests. The initiative and referendum carried by a vote of 312,592 to 231,312, despite the fact that every ruse and trick known to professional politicians was used to compass its defeat.

On November 3, 1914, there were four constitutional amendments submitted to the voters of the state and the two which caused the most discussion, viz., woman's suffrage and prohibition, were defeated. The other two amendments related to home rule for cities and the regulation of the liquor traffic.

#### MILITARY RECORD.

The state of Ohio has had its citizens in four wars in which the United States has engaged since 1803; the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War and the Spanish-American War. It is very unfortunate that the public records of Ohio contain no list of the soldiers of the state who fought in the War of 1812, although large numbers of the citizens served in the field under various commanders. The records as regards the Mexican War are fairly complete and show that a total of 5,536 men were sent to the front by the state. When the call was first issued for troops, Ohio was called upon to furnish three thousand men and within a short time forty companies reported at Camp Washington, near Cincinnati. Thirty companies were formed into three regiments, commanded by Cols. Alexander M. Mitchell, George W. Morgan and Samuel R. Curtis. These troops were sent down the Ohio in July, 1846, and joined General Taylor on the Rio Grande. In 1847 additional troops were sent from Ohio, but none of them saw any active service. The regiment under the command of Mitchell was the only one to take part in a battle, and it distinguished itself in the storming of Monterey. The state of Ohio suffered a severe loss in the death of Brig.-Gen. Thomas L. Hammer, one of the most prominent men of the state at that time. He was a member of Congress at the time of the opening of the war, but left Congress, enlisted as a private and soon after received a commission as brigadier-general. He was in the operations around Monterey and shortly afterward was stricken with a fatal disease and died on December 30, 1846.

The part which Ohio played in the Civil War can be only briefly noticed in this resume of the history of the state. That Ohio did her full duty as a loyal member of the Union is a fact which is known to everyone. Within twenty-four hours from the time the President issued his first call for troops on April 16, 1860, the Legislature had passed a bill appropriating one million dollars for military purposes. Two days later (April 19th) two regiments

of Ohio troops left by rail for Washington. The ease and quickness with which this was accomplished is an indication of the intense loyalty of the state. It is a glowing tribute to the state of Ohio that although there were only thirteen regiments assigned to the state under the first call, enough men presented themselves to make more than seventy regiments. This outburst of loyalty was such that the Legislature authorized the governor to accept ten more regiments, and the state itself equipped and paid these additional men and enrolled them for the defense of the state. By October 1, 1862, the state had enrolled militia to the number of 425,147 and the state sent out for duty outside of its own limits 319,659 men, although their quota was only 306,322. This gives the state the honor of furnishing more than one-tenth of the total enlistment of men in the Northern army. In number of troops furnished, Ohio was third among all the states and in losses was second. The soldiers were a part of every army, participated in every campaign, fought in every important battle from Bull Run to Bentonville, from Sabine Cross Roads to Gettysburg. No less than forty-three Ohio regiments of infantry were present at the sanguinary engagement at Missionary Ridge and they were in like proportion at the other battles. Twelve thousand brave Ohio men were killed or mortally wounded and at least forty thousand received wounds of some kind. Thirteen thousand died of disease in the service and twenty thousand were discharged for disability arising from wounds or disease. These figures give some idea of the prominent part which the soldiers of Ohio played in the great struggle.

It is pertinent to say something of the activity of the anti-war party in the state during the time the struggle was going on. In the summer of 1863 the Democrats of the state nominated Vallandigham for governor, a man who was very outspoken in his denunciation of the war, but John Brough, a staunch Union man, had no difficulty in defeating him for the governorship. The part which Vallandigham subsequently played in the history of his state is sufficient proof that it was for the best interests of the state that he was defeated.

The Spanish-American War of 1898 has been the last one in which troops from Ohio have taken any part. Following the call of President McKinley for seventy-five thousand volunteers, Ohio had no difficulty in filling their quota. This war opened officially on April 25th and formally came to an end by the signing of a protocol on August 12th. The battles of Manila Bay, Santiago, El Caney and San Juan Hill were the only engagements of importance. According to the treaty of Paris, which was signed December 12, 1898, Spain relinquished her sovereignty over Cuba, ceded to

the United States Porto Rico and her other West India possessions and the Island of Guam, and transferred her rights in the Philippines for a sum of twenty million dollars paid to her for public works and improvements which belonged to the Spanish government.

#### THE LAND GRANTS OF OHIO.

Ohio was the first state organized out of the territory north of the Ohio river and east of the Mississippi river and was divided into several grants, reservations and military districts of one kind and another. These various divisions have led to an endless amount of confusion in the surveying of lands in the state and in many cases in expensive litigation. A brief summary of each one of these divisions is here presented.

#### THE OHIO LAND COMPANY PURCHASE.

This company was organized March 3, 1786, at Boston and on October 27, 1787, bought from the government 1,500,000 acres and received, outside of the portions reserved by Congress, 1,064,285 acres. Congress set aside the sixteenth section of each township for school purposes, the twenty-ninth section for religious purposes and the eighth, eleventh and twenty-sixth for such purposes as Congress might determine in the future. This tract included what was known as the "Donation Tract" of 100,000 acres, the same now being the northern part of Washington county. For this immense tract the Ohio Company paid the government sixty-six and two-thirds cents an acre.

#### THE FRENCH GRANT.

The secretary of the United Board of Treasury, William Duer, was instrumental in helping the Ohio Company to secure from Congress the option on 3,000,000 acres lying west and north of the original purchase of this company. The title to this tract remained in the government and out of this peculiar arrangement arose the Scioto Company, which was organized in France. Hundreds of deluded Frenchmen invested their money in this tract and received cloudy titles which caused no little trouble in later years. A large number of these French settlers landed on the banks of the Ohio on October 20, 1790, on the site of the present city of Gallipolis, which they founded and named. The Scioto Company was incompetently managed, became insolvent and the land on which the unfortunate Frenchmen had settled

reverted to the United States government. While the most of them remained, there were many of them who went on farther west and located where other French settlers had previously established themselves. The United States treated the remaining French settlers in a very generous manner and by the act of March 3, 1795, granted them 24,000 acres on the Ohio river within the present limits of Scioto county.

#### THE SYMMES PURCHASE.

In 1788 John Cleves Symmes and other men of New Jersey organized the Miami Company and bought from the United States 1,000,000 acres, for which the company agreed to pay sixty-six and two-thirds cents an acre. As in the case of the purchase of the Ohio Company, the government made reservations of school and church sections, as well as three additional sections for general purposes. The Miami Company later found out that they had contracted for more than they could pay and the records show that they received and paid for only 311,682 acres in the southern part of the tract. It is interesting to note that the present site of Cincinnati was sold by the company to one Matthias Denman for the sum of five hundred dollars. The city of Cincinnati was founded the following year and the monument in that city on Third street, between Broadway and Ludlow streets, marks the location of Fort Washington, which was erected to protect the infant city from the Indians.

#### CONNECTICUT RESERVE.

In the year 1786 the state of Connecticut relinquished all her claims to lands in the Northwest Territory with the exception of a strip of 3,500,000 acres bordering Lake Erie. This immense tract became an integral part of Ohio as the result of two separate acts on the part of Connecticut. The state granted 500,000 acres in the western part of the reserve in 1792 to those citizens of Connecticut whose homes had been burned by the British during the Revolutionary War. The towns of Norwalk, Greenwich, Fairfield, New Haven and New London furnished the greater part of the eighteen hundred who took advantage of the generous offer of their state. The land was surveyed into townships of five miles square and divided among the settlers in proportion to their losses. In 1795 the Connecticut Land Company purchased the rest of the reserve, amounting to 3,000,000 acres, and on April 28, 1800, the United States government passed an act which paved the way for the final absorption of the tract by the state of Ohio. In May, 1800, the Con-

necticut Legislature accepted the offer of the United States and formally renounced all claims to the territory in favor of the state of Ohio.

#### THE VIRGINIA MILITARY DISTRICT.

The reservation was retained by Virginia when the state relinquished her claim to Congress in 1784, being retained by the state for the use of the Revolutionary soldiers who had enlisted from Virginia. It comprised the territory between the Little Miami and Scioto rivers, but was not to be used unless the lands claimed by Virginia south of the Ohio river proved insufficient to pay all of the bounties promised by Virginia to her soldiers. By the year 1790 it was seen that Virginia would not have enough territory south of the Ohio to satisfy all of her needs and accordingly, in August of that year, Congress passed an act allowing the state to use the optional territory north of the Ohio river. Owing to the fact that the territory was not surveyed according to any definite plan, the various allotments assigned to the Virginia soldiers frequently overlapped and in many instances confusion and litigation resulted.

#### THE UNITED STATES MILITARY LANDS.

The Continental Congress during the Revolutionary War offered bounties of Western lands in order to increase enlistments, and soldiers so secured were given land warrants which they later presented to Congress and exchanged for land. On June 1, 1796, Congress passed an act which called upon the surveyor-general of the United States to locate a tract in the Northwest Territory for the purpose of enabling the government to have land to take up the land warrants which it had issued during the late war. The limits of this particular tract began "at the northwest corner of the Seven Ranges, thence south fifty miles, thence west to the Scioto river and along that river to the Greenville treaty line, thence along that line and east to the place of beginning." These lands were surveyed into townships five miles square and each owner received a patent for his land signed by the President of the United States.

#### THE REFUGEE TRACT.

This tract was set aside by the Continental Congress in April, 1783, for the benefit of such people as left Canada and Nova Scotia to help the American colonies in their fight against England during the Revolution. The subsequent congressional act of 1798 confirmed the act of the Continental

Congress and on February 18, 1801, Congress definitely selected "those fractional townships of the sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, twentieth, twenty-first and twenty-second ranges of townships joining the southern boundary line of the military lands." This tract of four and a half miles in width, and extending forty-two miles east of the Scioto river, contained more than twice as much as was needed to satisfy the claims of the refugees. The part unclaimed by those for whom it was set aside was attached to the Chillicothe land district and sold as Congress lands. It so happened that the future capital of the state, Columbus, is in the extreme western side of this tract.

#### CONGRESS LANDS.

Some of the tracts of land already described were Congress lands, viz., the French Grant, the Seven Ranges and the Refugee Tract. Congress retained and sold all lands not specifically relinquished to land companies and established land offices for the purpose at different times at Marietta, Cincinnati, Steubenville, Chillicothe, Zanesville, Canton, Wooster, Piqua, Delaware, Wapakoneta, Lima and Upper Sandusky.

#### THE MORAVIAN GRANT.

The congressional grant to the Ohio Company in 1787 reserved ten thousand acres in what is now Tuscarawas county for the use of the Moravians and Christian Indians who had previously settled there, the title being vested in the Moravian Brethren at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. A few years later two thousand acres were added to the original grant and in 1823 the territory reverted to the United States, with the exception of the cemeteries, church yards and a few special leases.

#### DOHRMAN'S GRANT.

Congress granted all of township 13, range 7, in Tuscarawas county to one Henry Dohrman, a Portuguese citizen, who rendered valuable services to the colonies during the Revolutionary War.

#### THE MAUMEE ROAD LANDS.

In 1823 Congress granted to the state of Ohio about sixty thousand acres for the purpose of constructing a road from the lower rapids of the Maumee river to the western limits of the Western Reserve of Connecticut.

## THE TURNPIKE LANDS.

In 1827 Congress granted to the state of Ohio forty-nine sections of land in Seneca, Crawford and Marion counties, for the construction of a road from Columbus to Sandusky.

## CANAL GRANTS.

Between 1825 and 1845 Congress at different times made special grants of land to the state of Ohio for canal purposes, and a total of about one million acres were thus secured by the state. By the year 1842 the state had completed six hundred and fifty-eight miles of canals, at the staggering cost to the state of \$14,688,666.97, although before they were all completed the railroads were in operation in the state.

## SALT SECTIONS.

In the early history of the Northwest Territory salt was a commodity hard to secure and necessarily high in price. Congress reserved every place where it was thought salt could be obtained and in this way helped the settlers to get salt at least expense. In Ohio an entire township within the present county of Jackson was reserved, as well as about four thousand acres in Delaware county. In 1824 Congress relinquished its claim in favor of Ohio.

## THE ZANE SECTIONS.

Ebenezer Zane, one of the most prominent of the men in the early history of the state, was granted three sections by Congress in 1796 in return for his services in opening a road from Wheeling to Maysville. These three sections were located at Zanesville, Chillicothe and Lancaster. Isaac Zane was granted three sections in Champaign county by Congress for valuable service to the colonies during the Revolution. Isaac Zane had been captured by the Indians when a small boy and spent the major portion of his life with them, and his influence with the Indians was such that he proved to be of great assistance to the colonies in handling them.

## THE MINISTERIAL LANDS.

These lands have been previously mentioned and were reserved only in two grants, those of the Ohio Land Company and the Symmes Purchase.



The grants to both set aside section twenty-nine of each township for religious purposes.

#### SCHOOL SECTIONS.

Provisions for public schools were made in all states created by the United States after the adoption of the constitution. The Ordinance of 1787 had made specific mention of the value of schools and a wise Congress set aside section sixteen of every township, which was surveyed into townships six miles square. The United States military lands were surveyed into townships, five miles square, but Congress reserved one thirty-sixth of the whole area for school purposes. There are no reservations in the Connecticut Reserve and Virginia Military District for school purposes, but Congress made up for this by setting aside an amount equivalent to one thirty-sixth of the area in each tract from other lands belonging to the United States. As a matter of fact, one thirty-sixth of the whole state was reserved for school purposes as well as three townships for universities.

#### OHIO POLITICS.

The politics of Ohio presents many interesting features, but this brief summary can do little more than indicate the more important landmarks in the political history of the state. The first governor of the Northwest Territory, Arthur St. Clair, was an ardent Federalist and undoubtedly his pronounced political views had something to do with his removal from the office on November 22, 1802. From that time until 1836 the Democratic party, or the Republican or Democratic-Republican, as it was at first called, controlled the state, and it was not until William Henry Harrison, a "favorite son," became a candidate for the presidency, that the Whigs were able to break the strength of the Democratic party of the state. In 1836, 1840 and 1844 the Whigs carried the state for the President. The panic of 1837, the popularity of Harrison and the Texas question were largely determining factors in the success of the Whigs. The Democrats regained sufficient power in 1848 to carry the state again, and repeated their victory in 1852. In 1856 John C. Fremont carried the state for the newly organized Republican party and since that year there has been only one Democratic electoral vote in the state of Ohio. In 1892 Grover Cleveland received one of Ohio's twenty-three electoral votes, but with this exception the state has cast a solid Republican vote for President every year since 1856. Ohio has furnished five Presidents of the United States: William Henry Harrison, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, William McKinley and William H. Taft.

While the state has been registering Republican votes for the President, it has had eight Democratic governors and has frequently elected them by large majorities. A complete list of the governors of the state, with the years of their tenure and their politics, is given at this point for reference:

Governor.	Tenure.	Politics
Edward Tiffin -----	1803-07 -----	Democratic-Rep.
Thomas Kirker (acting) -----	1807-09 -----	Democratic-Rep.
Samuel Huntington -----	1809-11 -----	Democratic-Rep.
Return Jonathan Meigs -----	1811-14 -----	Democratic-Rep.
Othniel Looker (acting) -----	1814-15 -----	Democratic-Rep.
Thomas Worthington -----	1815-19 -----	Democratic-Rep.
Ethan Allen Brown -----	1819-22 -----	Democratic-Rep.
Allen Trimble (acting) -----	1822-23 -----	Democratic-Rep.
Jeremiah Morrow -----	1823-27 -----	Democrat
Allen Trimble -----	1827-31 -----	Democrat
Duncan McArthur -----	1831-33 -----	National Republican
Robert Lucas -----	1833-37 -----	Democrat
Joseph Vance -----	1837-39 -----	Whig
Wilson Shannon -----	1839-41 -----	Democrat
Thomas Corwin -----	1841-43 -----	Whig
Wilson Shannon -----	1843-44 -----	Democrat
Thomas W. Bartley (acting) -----	1844-45 -----	Democrat
Mordecai Bartley -----	1845-47 -----	Whig
William Bebb -----	1847-49 -----	Whig
Seabury Ford -----	1849-51 -----	Whig
Reuben Wood -----	1851-53 -----	Democrat
William Medill (acting, 1853) -----	1853-56 -----	Democrat
Salmon P. Chase -----	1856-60 -----	Republican
William Dennison, Jr. -----	1860-62 -----	Republican
David Tod -----	1862-64 -----	Republican
John Brough -----	1864-65 -----	Republican
Charles Anderson (acting) -----	1865-66 -----	Republican
Jacob D. Cox -----	1866-68 -----	Republican
Rutherford B. Hayes -----	1868-72 -----	Republican
Edward F. Noyes -----	1872-74 -----	Republican
William Allen -----	1874-76 -----	Democrat
Rutherford B. Hayes -----	1876-77 -----	Republican
Thomas L. Young -----	1877-78 -----	Republican

Governor.	Tenure.	Politics.
Richard M. Bishop -----	1878-80 -----	Democrat
Charles Foster -----	1880-84 -----	Republican
George Hoadley -----	1884-86 -----	Democrat
Joseph Benson Foraker -----	1886-90 -----	Republican
James E. Campbell -----	1890-92 -----	Democrat
William McKinley -----	1892-96 -----	Republican
Asa S. Bushnell -----	1896-00 -----	Republican
George K. Nash -----	1900-04 -----	Republican
Myron T. Herrick -----	1904-06 -----	Republican
John M. Patterson (died in office) ---	1906 -----	Democrat
Andrew Litner Harris -----	1906-09 -----	Republican
Judson Harmon -----	1909-13 -----	Democrat
James M. Cox -----	1913-15 -----	Democrat
Frank B. Willis -----	1915— -----	Republican

The political history of Ohio can not be dismissed without reference to the amendments incorporated in the new constitution in 1912 which have made the constitution practically a new instrument of government. The general tendency of the thirty-three amendments is to make a freer expression of democracy through the medium of the initiative and referendum, direct primaries and home rule for cities. A workmen's compensation law was enacted which provides for compulsory contributions to an insurance fund by the employers of the state. Many changes were made in providing for improvements in social and industrial conditions. Ohio now has a constitution which is sufficiently flexible to allow changes to be made by amendment without the trouble of a constitutional convention.

#### BOUNDARY LINES.

The state boundaries of Ohio have been the cause for most animated discussions, not only in regard to state limits but county and township lines as well. In 1817, and again in 1834, a severe controversy arose over the boundary between Ohio and Michigan which was settled only after violent demonstrations and government interference.

In primitive times the geographical position, extent and surface diversities were but meagerly comprehended. In truth, it may be asserted they could not have been more at variance with actual facts had they been laid out "haphazard." The Ordinance of 1787 represented Lake Michigan far north

of its real position, and even as late as 1812 its size and location had not been definitely ascertained. During that year Amos Spafford addressed a clear, comprehensive letter to the governor of Ohio relative to the boundary lines between Michigan and Ohio. Several lines of survey were laid out as the first course, but either Michigan or Ohio expressed disapproval in every case. This dispute came to a climax in 1835 when the party beginning a "permanent" survey began at the northwest corner of the state and was attacked by a force of Michigan settlers who sent them away badly routed and beaten. No effort was made to return to the work until the state and various parties had weighed the subject, and finally the interposition of the government became necessary. A settlement resulted in the establishment of the present boundary line between the two states, Michigan being pacified with the grant of a large tract in the northern peninsula.

Ohio is situated between the  $38^{\circ} 25'$  and  $42^{\circ}$  north latitude, and  $80^{\circ} 30'$  and  $84^{\circ} 50'$  west longitude from Greenwich, or  $3^{\circ} 30'$  and  $7^{\circ} 50'$  west from Washington. From north to south it extends over two hundred and ten miles, and from east to west two hundred and twenty miles—comprising thirty-nine thousand nine hundred and sixty-four square miles.

The state is generally higher than the Ohio river. In the southern counties the surface is greatly diversified by the inequalities produced by the excavating power of the Ohio river and its tributaries. The greater portion of the state was originally covered with timber, although in the central and northwestern sections some prairies were found. The crest or watershed between the waters of Lake Erie and those of the Ohio is less elevated than in New York or Pennsylvania. Sailing upon the Ohio the country appears to be mountainous, bluffs rising to the height of two hundred and fifty to six hundred feet above the bed of the river. Ascending the tributaries of the Ohio, these precipitous hills gradually lessen until they are resolved into gentle undulations and toward the sources of these streams the land becomes low and level.

Although Ohio has no inland lakes of importance, it possesses a favorable river system which gives the state a convenient water transportation. The lake on the northern boundary, and the Ohio river on the south afford convenient outlets by water to important points. The means of communication and transportation are superior in every respect, and are constantly being increased by railroad and electric lines.

## ORGANIZATION OF COUNTIES AND EARLY EVENTS.

Adams county was named in honor of John Adams, the second President of the United States. Governor St. Clair proclaimed it a county on July 10, 1797. The Virginia Military Tract included this section, and the first settlement made within its boundaries was in this county in 1790-91, between the Scioto and Little Miami, at Manchester, by Gen. Nathaniel Massie. In this town was held the first court of the county. West Union, the present county seat, was laid out by the Honorable Thomas Kirker. It occupies the summit of a high ridge. The surface of this county is hilly and broken, and the eastern part is not fertile. It produces corn, wheat and oats. Its hills are composed of aluminous shale.

Ashland county, one of the finest agricultural sections, was formed February 26, 1846. Wheat, oats, corn, potatoes, grass and fruit are raised. Ashland is its county seat and was laid out by William Montgomery in 1816. It was called Uniontown for several years. Daniel Carter raised the first cabin within the county limits in 1811.

Auglaize county was formed in February, 1848, from Allen and Mercer counties. Wapakoneta is its county seat. Auglaize is a great agricultural county, producing all the kinds of grain raised in Ohio.

Allen county was formed from the Indian territory April 1, 1820. Lima is its county seat. In Allen county are some of the greatest gas and oil fields in the United States, and the section is also very rich in agriculture.

Ashtabula county was created June 7, 1807, and was organized January 22, 1811. The surface is level near the lake, while the remainder is undulating. The soil is mostly clay. This was the first county settled on the Western Reserve and also the earliest in northern Ohio. On the 4th of July, 1796, the first surveying party arrived at the mouth of Conneaut creek. Judge James Kingsbury was the first who wintered there with his family. He was the first man to use a sickle in the first wheat field in the Western Reserve. Their child was the first born on the Western Reserve and was starved to death. The first regular settlement was at Harpersfield in 1798. Jefferson is the county seat. Ashtabula is pleasantly situated on the river, with a fine harbor two and a half miles from the village. The first church on the Western Reserve was founded at Austinburg in 1801.

Athens county was formed from Washington March 1, 1805. It produces wheat, corn, oats and tobacco. The surface is hilly and broken, with rich bottom lands between. Coal, iron ore and salt add materially to its com-

mercial value. Athens, its county seat, is situated on the Hocking river. Ohio University, the first college founded in the state, is located here.

Brown county was formed March 1, 1818, from Adams and Clermont. It produces wheat, corn, rye and oats. The southern part is prolific in grain, while the northern is adapted to grazing purposes. The surface is undulating, with the exception of the Ohio river hills. Over this county Tecumseh once held sway. Georgetown, the county seat, was laid out in 1819. Ripley is the largest business town in the county.

Belmont county was created by Governor St. Clair September 7, 1801. It produces large crops of wheat, oats, corn and tobacco. It is a picturesque tract of country, and was one of the pioneers in the early settled portions. In 1790 Fort Dillie was erected on the west side of the Ohio. Baker's Fort was a mile below the mouth of the Captina. Many desperate Indian battles were fought within the limits of this county, and the famous Indian scout, Lewis Wetzel, roamed over the region. Saint Clairsville is the county seat, situated on the elevation of land, in a fertile district. Captain Kirkwood and Elizabeth Zane, of historic fame, were early pioneers here.

Butler county was formed in 1803 from Hamilton. It is within the blue limestone formation, and one of the most fertile sections of Ohio. Hamilton, the county seat, is situated on the Great Miami. Its hydraulic works furnish superior water power. Rossville, on the opposite side of the Miami, is a large mercantile town. St. Clair passed through this county on his Indian campaigns in 1791, building Fort Hamilton on the Miami.

Champaign county was formed March 1, 1805, from Greene and Franklin. It is drained by Mad river and its tributaries. The soil is fertile, and produces wheat, corn, barley, hay, while beef and wool add to the general wealth. Urbana, the county seat, was laid out in 1805, by Col. William Ward. He was the chief owner of the land and donated many lots to the county under condition that their proceeds be devoted to public improvements. Joseph Vance and George Fithian were the first settlers. The Methodists built the first church in 1807. The main army of Hull concentrated at this point before setting out for Detroit. Many Indian councils were called here and Tecumseh was located for a time near Deer creek.

Carroll county was formed from Columbiana in 1832-33. It produces wheat, oats and corn, and valuable coal and iron. The surface is hilly. Carrollton is its county seat.

Clark county was formed March 1, 1817, from Champaign, Madison and Green. Its second settlement was at Kreb's Station in 1796. It is highly cultivated, well watered and very fertile. Tecumseh, the old Indian

warrior, was born at the ancient Indian village of Piqua, on the Mad river on the site of New Boston. Piqua was destroyed by Gen. George Rogers Clark. Skeletons, beads, gun barrels, tomahawks, kettles, etc., have been found in the vicinity. Springfield, the county seat, is situated on the national road. It has convenient transportation facilities, is handsomely laid out, and is noted for its cultured citizens. It is near Mad river and Buck creek runs through it.

Clinton county was formed in 1810. Its surface is undulating, in some parts hilly, and the soil fertile. The county was settled in 1798-99. Wilmington is the county seat, and was laid out in 1810. The first log house was built by William Hobsin. Clinton county is rich in agriculture and is noted for its macadamized roads.

Clermont county was the eighth formed in the Northwest Territory by proclamation of Governor St. Clair, December 9, 1800. The soil is exceedingly rich, and the surface is broken and, near the Ohio, hilly. Wheat, corn, oats, hay, potatoes, tobacco, barley, buckwheat and rye form the main crops. Batavia, its county seat, is situated on the Little Miami river and was laid out in 1820 by George Ely.

Columbiana county was formed March 25, 1803, from Jefferson and Washington. Its soil is very fertile, producing wheat, corn, oats and potatoes. It is wealthy in mineral deposits, coal, iron ore, lime and freestone being abundant. Its water-lime stone is of superior quality. It was settled in 1797. Lisbon is the county seat. The first paper mill in Ohio was erected in this county, on Little Beaver creek, by John Coulter and John Bever.

Coshocton county was organized April 1, 1811. Hills and valleys alternate along the Muskingum river. Coal and iron ore add to its general importance. Coshocton, the county seat, is built on four wide, natural terraces, at the junction of the Tuscarawas and Walhonding.

Cuyahoga county was formed June 7, 1807, from Geauga county. Near the lake the soil is sandy, while a clayey loam may be found elsewhere. As early as 1775 there was a French settlement within the boundaries of Cuyahoga. In 1786 a Moravian missionary came to the present site of Cleveland and settled in an abandoned village of the Ottawas. Circumstances prevented a permanent settlement, and the British tacitly took possession, even remaining upon the lake shores after the Revolution. The first permanent settlement was made at Cleveland in 1796. Job V. Stiles and family and Edward Paine passed the first winter there, their log cabin standing where the Commercial Bank is now located. Rodolphus Edwards and Nathaniel Doane settled here. In 1813 the town was a depot of supplies and a

rendezvous for troops engaged in the war. Cleveland, the county seat, is situated at the northern termination of the Old Ohio canal on the lake shore. In 1814 it was incorporated as a village, and in 1836 as a city. Its elevation is about a hundred feet above the lake. Ohio City is another important town nearly opposite Cleveland on the Cuyahoga. It was incorporated in 1836.

Crawford county was formed April 1, 1820, from the old Indian Territory. The entire county is adapted to grazing. The soil is generally composed of rich vegetable loam and in some parts the subsoil is clay mixed with lime. Rich beds of shell marl have been discovered. Bucyrus, the county seat, was laid out February 11, 1822, by Samuel Norton and James Kilbourn, original owners of the land. The first settler in the town proper was Samuel Norton. Crawford's sulphur springs are located nine miles from Bucyrus. The water is impregnated with sulphuretted hydrogen and deposits a reddish-purple sediment. In its nature the water is a cathartic, and is diuretic and diaphoretic in its effect. The Annapolis Sulphur Springs is clear and has gained considerable fame by its curative qualities. Opposite Bucyrus is a chalybeate spring of tonic qualities.

Darke county was organized in March, 1817, from Miami county. In this county occurred the lamentable defeat of St. Clair, and the treaty of Greenville. Greenville, the county seat, was laid out August 10, 1808, by Robert Gray and John Dover. In December, 1793, Wayne built Fort Greenville on this spot, which covered about the same extent as the present town.

Delaware county was formed February 10, 1808, from Franklin. Delaware, the county seat, was laid out in the spring of 1808, by Moses Byxbe. Because of its rich soil, Delaware is an important agricultural county. The historic streams, the Scioto and Olentangy rivers, run through the county a long distance.

Defiance county was created March 4, 1845, from Williams, Henry and Paulding. The Maumee, Tiffin and Auglaize flow through it. The county is now one of the largest producers of sugar beets in Ohio. Defiance, the county seat, is situated on the Maumee. It was laid out in 1822 by B. Level and H. Phillips. A large Indian settlement occupied its site in very early times. Wayne arrived here August 8, 1794, captured the place, finding about one thousand acres of corn, peach and apple orchards and vegetables of all varieties. Here he built Fort Defiance.

Erie county was formed in 1838 from Huron and Sandusky. The soil is alluvial and yields large crops of wheat, corn, oats and potatoes. It possesses inexhaustible quarries of limestone and freestone. The Erie tribe is said to have once occupied the land and were extirpated by the Iroquois. As



early as 1754, the French had built settlements here. In 1764 the county was overrun by Pontiac, who came here with warlike demonstrations, but made peace with the whites. Erie was included in the "Fire lands" of the Western Reserve. Sandusky City is the county seat and was laid out in 1817, then termed Portland. At that time it contained two log huts. The town is finely situated and is based upon an inexhaustible quarry of the finest limestone. In the "patriot war" with the Canadians, this city was the rendezvous for the "patriots."

Franklin county was formed April 30, 1803, from Ross. It was in early times occupied by the Wyandot Indians. Its first white settlement was made in 1797 by Robert Armstrong and others. Franklinton was laid out in 1797 by Lucas Sullivant. Worthington was settled by the Scioto Company in 1801. Colonel Kilbourn, who was interested in the work, constructed the first map of Ohio during his exploration by uniting sectional diagrams. Columbus, the capital of the state, is also the county seat of Franklin county. In 1810 the sessions of the Legislature were held at Chillicothe, in 1811 and 1812 at Zanesville, removing again to Chillicothe, and in 1816, being located at Columbus. The town was laid out during the spring of 1812. A penitentiary was erected in 1813 and the state house was built in 1814. It was incorporated as "the borough of Columbus" February 10, 1816. The city charter was granted March 3, 1834. It is beautifully located on the east bank of the Scioto. The Ohio Lunatic Asylum, the Ohio Institution for the Education of the Blind and the Ohio Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb are located at Columbus.

Fairfield county was formed by proclamation of Governor St. Clair, December 9, 1800. The soil is varied, being in some parts exceedingly rich, and in others very sterile. Lancaster, the county seat, was laid out by Ebenezer Zane in 1800. In 1797 he opened the road known as "Zane's Trace," from Wheeling to Limestone—now Maysville. It passed through Lancaster at a fording about three hundred yards below the present turnpike bridge.

Fayette county was formed from Ross and Highland in 1810. Washington, its county seat, was laid out in 1810. Colonel Stewart was active in the interests of this section and his memory is sacredly revered. Jesse Millikan was prominent in early public affairs. Fayette is one of the richest agricultural counties in the state and is especially noted for the raising of fine horses.

Fulton county, bordering on Michigan, was organized in 1850. It is

drained by Bean creek and other small affluents of the Maumee river. The surface is nearly level and the soil fertile. Wauseon is the county seat.

Guernsey county was organized in March, 1810. It produces wheat, corn and oats. Cambridge is the county seat and was laid out in June, 1806. Mr. Graham was the first settler on the site of the town and his was the only dwelling between Lancaster and Wheeling. The first cannel coal found in the county was discovered near Mill's creek.

Greene county was formed May 1, 1803, from Hamilton and Ross. It produces wheat, corn, rye, grass seed, oats, barley, sheep and swine. The Shawnee town was on the Little Miami and was visited by Capt. Thomas Bullitt in 1773. When Daniel Boone was captured in 1778, he was brought to this town and escaped the following year. General Clark invaded this county and the Indians reduced the town to ashes. Xenia, the county seat, was laid off in the forest in 1803 by Joseph C. Vance. The first cabin was erected in April, 1804, by John Marshall. The Rev. James Fowler built the first hewed-log cabin. David A. Sanders, built the first frame house. Nine miles north of the town on the Little Miami river are the Yellow Springs, which are impregnated with sulphur.

Geauga county was formed in 1805 from Trumbull. It is situated at the head of Charginer, Cuyahoga and a part of Grand rivers, on high ground and is subjected to snow storms more frequently than any other part of the reserve. Its first settlement was made in 1798 at Burton. Chardon is fourteen miles from Lake Erie and is six hundred feet above it. It was laid out as the county seat in 1808.

Gallia county was formed April 30, 1803, from Washington. The surface is generally broken. Its first settlement was made in 1791 by a French colony at Gallipolis. This colony was sent out under the auspices of the Scioto Company. This town is now the county seat.

Hamilton county was the second established in the Northwest Territory by proclamation of Governor St. Clair, January 2, 1790. Its surface is generally rolling. It produces the ordinary farm products and a great variety of fruits and vegetables for the Cincinnati market. This county was the second settled in Ohio and the first within the Symmes Purchase. Settlers arrived at the spot now occupied by Cincinnati and three or four log cabins were erected. Gen. Arthur St. Clair arrived here in January, 1790. The army of Wayne encamped here later, at Fort Washington. Mr. Maxwell established, in 1793, the *Sentinel of the Northwestern Territory*, the first newspaper printed north of the Ohio river. In 1796 Edward Freeman became its proprietor and changed the name to *Freeman's Journal*. January

11, 1794, two keel-boats sailed from Cincinnati to Pittsburgh, making regular trips every four weeks. In 1801 the first sea vessel built at Marietta came down the Ohio. Cincinnati, the county seat, was incorporated January 2, 1802. It was chartered as a city in 1819. The city is beautifully laid out and delightfully situated. Its public buildings are elegant and substantial, including the court house and many literary and charitable institutions.

Cincinnati is a large manufacturing city and possesses fine water-power facilities. It communicates with the world by means of the Ohio river, railways and electric lines. North Bend is another prominent town in this county, having been the residence of Gen. William H. Harrison and the site of his burial place. The town was of considerable importance in the early settlement of the state. About thirty yards from Harrison's tomb is the grave of Judge Symmes.

Hancock county was formed April 1, 1820. The surface is level and its soil is fertile. Blanchard's Fork waters the central and southern part of the county. Findlay, the county seat, was laid out by ex-Governor Joseph Vance and Elnathan Corry in 1821. It was relaid in 1829. William Vance settled there in the fall of 1821. Hancock county has extensive gas and oil fields.

Hardin county was formed April 1, 1820, from the old Indian Territory. A portion of the surface is level and the remainder undulating. Fort McArthur was built on the Scioto river but proved a weak stockade. Kenton is the county seat, situated on the Scioto river.

Harrison county was formed from Jefferson and Tuscarawas, January 1, 1814. The surface is hilly, abounding in coal and limestone. Its soil is clayey. In April, 1799, Alexander Henderson and family settled in this county, and at the same time Daniel Peterson and his family resided at the forks of Short creek. The early settlers were much annoyed by Indians and wild beasts. Cadiz is the county seat and was laid out in 1803 and 1804 by Messrs. Briggs and Beatty.

Henry county was formed from the old Indian Territory April 1, 1820. Indian corn, oats, potatoes and maple sugar constitute the main products. The county is well supplied with running streams and the soil is unusually rich. The soil is superior for grain. Fruit thrives and all varieties of vegetables are produced in large quantities. Simon Girty, notorious for his wicked career, resided in this county. Girty led the attack on Fort Henry in September, 1777. He demanded the surrender of the fort, and menaced its inmates with an Indian massacre in case of refusal. The action began, but the fort gained the victory. He led a ferocious band of Indians and com-

mitted the most fiendish atrocities. Napoleon, the county seat, is situated on the Maumee river.

Highland county was formed in May, 1805, from Ross, Adams and Clermont. It is a wealthy, productive county. Its first settlement began in 1801, at New Market by Oliver Ross, Robert Keeston, George W. Barrere, Bernard Weyer and others. Simon Kenton made a trace through this county in early times. Hillsboro is the county seat and was laid out in 1807 by David Hays on the land of Benjamin Ellicott. It is situated on the dividing ridge between the Miami and Scioto. The Hillsboro Academy was founded in 1827.

Hocking county was formed March 1, 1818, from Ross, Athens and Fairfield. Its surface is broken and hilly, but is level and fertile beside the streams. The Wyandots once occupied this tract and built a large town herein. In 1798 a few white families ventured to settle. Logan is its county seat and is situated on the Hocking river.

Holmes county was formed from Coshocton, Tuscarawas and Wayne January 20, 1824. The southwestern portion is broken. Thomas Butler was the first settler in 1810. Millersburg is the county seat and was laid out in 1830. This is an excellent agricultural county.

Huron county was organized in 1815. Norwalk is the county seat.

Jackson county was organized March, 1816. The country is rich in minerals and abounds in coal and iron ore. Jackson, the county seat, was laid out in 1817. The old Scioto salt works were among the first worked in Ohio by the whites. Prior to this period the Indians came some distance to this section to make salt. When Daniel Boone was a prisoner he spent some time at these works.

Jefferson county was proclaimed by Governor St. Clair July 29, 1797, and was the fifth county established in Ohio. Its resources in coal are also extensive. The surface is hilly and the soil fertile, producing wheat, corn and oats. The old "Mingo" town was on the present farms of Jeremiah Hallock and Daniel Potter. The troops of Colonel Williamson rendezvoused at this point when they set out in their cruel Moravian campaign and also the troops of Colonel Crawford, when they started on the campaign against the Sandusky Indians. Here Logan, the powerful and manly chief of the Mingo nation, once resided. He took no active part in the old French war, which closed in 1760, except that of a peacemaker. He was a staunch friend of the whites until the abominable and unprovoked murder of his father, brother and sister, which occurred in 1774 near the Yellow creek. He then raised the battle cry and sought revenge.

However, Logan was remarkably magnanimous toward prisoners who fell into his hands. The year 1793 was the last spent in Indian warfare in Jefferson county. Fort Steuben was erected on the present site of Steubenville, the county seat, in 1789. It was constructed of block-houses, with palisade fences and was dismantled during Wayne's campaign. Bezaleel Wells and Hon. James Ross laid the town out in 1798. It was incorporated February 14, 1805. It was situated upon an elevated plain. In 1814 Messrs. Wells and Dickerson built a woollen manufactory and introduced Merino sheep to the county.

Knox county was formed March 1, 1808, from Fairfield. It is drained by the Vernon river. Mount Vernon was laid out in 1805. The early settlers found two wells on the Vernon river built of hammered stone, neatly laid, and near by was a salt-lick. Their direct origin remains a mystery. Gilman Bryant, in 1807, opened the first store in Mount Vernon. The Indians came to Mount Vernon in large numbers for the purpose of trading in furs and cranberries. Each Saturday the settlers worked on the streets, extracting stumps and improving the highway. The first settler north of the place was N. M. Young, who built his cabin in 1803. Mount Vernon is now the county seat, beautifully situated on Vernon river. Kenyon College is located at Gambier. This institution was established under the auspices of Bishop Chase in July, 1826, in the center of a four-thousand-acre tract belonging to Kenyon College. It was chartered as a theological seminary.

Lucas county is of comparatively recent origin. This county is situated in the Maumee valley, which was the great arena of historical events. The frightful battle of Wayne's campaign, where the Indians found the British to be traitors, was fought near Fort Miami in this county. Maumee City was laid out in 1817 by Major William Oliver and others. It is situated on the Maumee at the head of navigation. The surface is one hundred feet above the water level. This town, with Perrysburg, its neighbor, is exceedingly picturesque and was in early times frequented by the Indians. The French had a trading post at this point in 1680, and in 1794 the British Fort Miami was built. Toledo, the county seat, is on the left bank of the Maumee and covers the site of a stockade fort, known as Fort Industry, erected in 1800. An Indian treaty was concluded here July 4, 1805, by which the Indians relinquished all rights to the "fire lands." In 1832 Capt. Samuel Allen gave an impetus to the place and Major Stickney also became interested in its advancement. Speculation in lots began in 1834. The Wabash & Erie canal interest arose in 1836. Mr. Mason and Edward Bissel added their energies to assist the growth of the town. It was incorporated as a city in 1836. It

was the center of the military operations in the "Ohio and Michigan war," known as the "boundary conflict."

Lorain county was formed from Huron, Cuyahoga and Medina on December 26, 1822. The soil is generally fertile and the surface level. A curious relic has been found in this county, bearing the date of 1533. Elyria is the county seat and was laid out in 1817. The first settler was Heman Ely. Oberlin is situated about eight miles southwest of Elyria. Oberlin College has attained a wide reputation.

Logan county was formed March 1, 1817. The surface is broken and hilly near the Mad river, but is generally level. The Shawnee Indians were destroyed in 1786 by a body of Kentuckians under Gen. Benjamin Logan. The whites surprised the towns. However, they returned after the work of destruction had been completed and for many years frequented the section. On the site of Zanesfield was a Wyandot village. By the treaty of September 29, 1817, the Senecas and Shawnees held a reservation around Lewistown. April 6, 1832, they vacated this right and removed west. Isaac Zane was born about the year 1753 and was, while a boy, captured and afterward adopted by the Wyandots. Attaining the age of manhood, he had no desire to return to his people. He married a Wyandot woman, who was half French. After the treaty of Greenville he bought one thousand eight hundred acres on the site of Zanesfield, where he lived until the year 1816, when he died. lamented by all his friends. Logan county was settled about the year 1806. During the War of 1812 it was a rendezvous for friendly Indians. Bellefontaine, the county seat, was laid out March 18, 1820, on land owned by John Tuller and William Powell. Joseph Gordon built a cabin and Anthony Ballard erected the first frame dwelling. Gen. Simon Kenton is buried at the head of Mad river, five miles from Bellefontaine. He died April 29, 1836, aged eighty-one years and twenty-six days. This remarkable man came west to Kentucky in 1771. He probably encountered more thrilling escapes than any other man of his time. In 1778 he was captured and suffered extreme cruelties and was ransomed by the British. He soon recovered his robust health and escaped from Detroit the following spring. He settled in Urbana in 1802. He was commissioned brigadier-general of the militia and in the War of 1812 joined General Harrison's army. In the year 1820 he removed to Mad river. General Vance and Judge Burnet secured him a pension of twenty dollars a month.

Licking county was formed from Fairfield March 1, 1808. The surface is generally level, diversified by slight hills in the eastern portion. Coal and iron ore of good quality add to the wealth of the county. Newark is the

county seat, and is situated at the confluence of the three principal branches of the Licking. In 1801 it was laid out by Gen. William C. Schenk, George W. Burnet and John M. Cummings, who owned this military section of four thousand acres. In 1802 Samuel Elliott and Samuel Parr built hewed-log houses. The picturesque "Narrows of the Licking" are in the eastern part of the county. Within the county are ancient fortifications, the most noted in the state of Ohio, containing about three hundred acres. The engineering is of the best and the works have frequently been visited by European scientists. The breastworks are lined with old trees and the trenches are now great canals.

Lawrence county was organized March 1, 1816. There are many high and abrupt hills in this section, which abound in sand and freestone. It is rich in minerals and the most important section of Ohio for iron manufacture. Coal is abundant and white clay exists in the western part suitable for pottery purposes. The county was settled in 1797 by the Dutch and Irish. The iron region extends through the west part of this county. Ironton is the county seat.

Lake county was formed from Geauga and Cuyahoga March 6, 1840. The soil is good and the surface rolling. As early as 1799 a settlement was formed at Mentor. Painesville, the county seat, is situated on Grand river in a beautiful valley. Painesville was laid out by Henry Champion in 1805. At Fairport the first warehouse in this section and probably the first on the lake, was built by Abraham Skinner in 1803. This town has a fine harbor and has a light-house and beacon. Kirtland, southwest from Painesville, was, in 1834, the headquarters of the Mormons. At that time they numbered about three thousand. The old Mormon temple is of rough stone, plastered over, colored blue, and marked to imitate regular courses of masonry.

Madison county was organized in March, 1810. The surface is generally level. Jonathan Alder was much interested in the settlement of the county. Captured when a child, he had lived with the Indians many years and had formed a lasting affection for them, and he married a squaw. He became dissatisfied with his Indian wife and this caused him to look up his own family. He succeeded through the assistance of John Moore. He left his Indian wife and joined his people.

This county was first settled in 1795. Benjamin Springer made a clearing and built a cabin. Joshua Ewing brought four sheep to this place and the Indians exhibited great astonishment over these strange animals. When the hostilities of 1812 began, the British offered inducements to the Indians to join them and they consulted Alder regarding the best policy to adopt. He advised them to preserve neutrality until a later period, which they did, and

eventually became firm friends of the Americans. London is the county seat and was laid out in 1810-11 by Patrick McLane.

Marion county was organized March 1, 1824. The soil is fertile and produces extensive farm crops. The Delaware Indians once held a reservation here and conceded their claims August 3, 1829, and then removed west of the Mississippi. Marion, the county seat, was laid out in 1821 by Eber Baker and Alexander Holmes. General Harrison marched through this section during his campaign.

Mahoning county was formed in 1846 from Trumbull and Columbiana. The surface is rolling and the soil generally fertile. Bituminous coal and iron are found in large quantities. Col. James Hillman came to the Western Reserve in 1786. The settlement of the county went forward. Youngstown is the county seat.

Medina county was formed from the Western Reserve February 12, 1812. The surface is rolling and the soil is fertile, producing fine agricultural products. The first trail through the county was made by George Poe, Joseph H. Larwell and Roswell M. Mason. The first settlement was made by Joseph Harris in 1811. He was soon joined by the Burr Brothers. Medina is the county seat.

Meigs county was formed from Gallia and Athens April 1, 1819. The general character of the soil is clayey, producing large quantities of wheat, oats, corn, hay and potatoes. Pomeroy, the county seat, is situated under a lofty hill, surrounded by picturesque scenery. Nathaniel Clark was the first settler of the county. He arrived in 1816. The first coal mine opened in Pomeroy was in 1819 by David Bradshaw.

Mercer county was formed from the Indian Territory in 1820. The surface is generally flat. St. Clair's battle was fought on the boundary line between this and Darke county. Lewis Cass and Duncan McArthur made a treaty on St. Mary's with the Wyandots, Shawnees and Ottawas in 1818. The odious Simon Girty lived at one time at St. Mary's. Wayne built St. Mary's fort on the west bank of the river. John Whistler was the last commander of the fort. The largest artificial lake in the world, so it is asserted, is formed by the reservoir supplying the St. Mary's feeder of the Miami Extension Canal. It is about nine miles long and from two to four broad. Celina is the county seat.

Miami county was formed January 16, 1807, from Montgomery. It abounds in excellent limestone and possesses remarkable water-power facilities. Its agricultural products rank high in quality and quantity. John Knoop came into this section about the year 1797 and its first settlement



began about this time. Troy, the county seat, is situated upon the Great Miami. Piqua is the largest city in the county.

Monroe county was formed January 29, 1813, from Belmont, Washington and Guernsey. A portion of its surface is abrupt and hilly. Large quantities of tobacco are raised. Iron ore and coal abound. The valleys of the streams are very narrow, bounded by rough hills. In some places are natural rock grottoes. The first settlement was made in 1799 near the mouth of the Sunfish. At this time wolves were numerous and caused much alarm. Volney entered this county but was not prepossessed in its favor. One township was settled by the Swiss. Woodsfield is the county seat.

Montgomery county was formed from Ross and Hamilton May 1, 1803. The soil is fertile and its agricultural products are most excellent. Quarries of grayish-white limestone are found east of the Miami. Dayton is the county seat, situated on the Great Miami at the mouth of Mad river. A company was formed in 1788, but Indian wars prevented settlement. After Wayne's treaty in 1795, a new company was formed. It advanced rapidly between the years 1812 and 1820. The beginning of the Miami canal renewed its prosperity in 1827. The first canal-boat from Cincinnati arrived at Dayton on the 25th of January, 1829. The first one arrived from Lake Erie in June, 1845. Col. Robert Patterson came to Dayton in 1804. At one time he owned Lexington, Kentucky, and about one-third of Cincinnati.

Morgan county was organized in 1818, March 1. The surface is hilly and the soil strong and fertile, producing wheat, corn, oats and tobacco. Pork is a prolific product and considerable salt is made. The first settlement was made in 1790 on the Muskingum. McConnellsville is the county seat. Mr. Ayres made the first attempt to produce salt in 1817.

Morrow county was organized in 1848. It is drained by the Vernon river, which rises in it, by the East Branch of the Olentangy or Whetstone river, and by Walnut creek. The surface is undulating and the soil fertile. The staple products are corn, wheat, oats, hay, wool and butter. Mount Gilead, the county seat, is situated on the East Branch of the Olentangy river.

Muskingum county was formed from Washington and Fairfield. The surface is rolling or hilly. It produces wheat, corn, oats, potatoes, tobacco, wool and pork. Large quantities of bituminous coal are found. Salt is made in large quantities—the fine being obtained from a stratum of whitish sandstone. The Wyandots, Delawares, Senecas and Shawnees Indians once inhabited this section. An Indian town occupied the site of Duncan's Falls. A large Shawnee town was located near Dresden. Zanesville is the county

seat, situated opposite the mouth of the Licking. It was laid out in 1799 by Mr. Zane and Mr. McIntire. This is one of the principal towns in the state.

Noble county, organized in 1851, is drained by Seneca, Duck and Wills creeks. The surface is undulating and a large part of it is covered with forests. The soil is fertile. Among its mineral resources are limestone, coal and petroleum. Near Caldwell, the county seat, are found iron ore, coal and salt.

Ottawa county was formed from Erie, Sandusky and Lucas March 6, 1840. It was very thinly settled before 1830. Extensive plaster beds exist on the peninsula, which extends into Lake Erie. It has also large limestone quarries, which are extensively worked. The very first trial at arms upon the soil of Ohio, during the War of 1812, occurred upon this peninsula. Port Clinton, the county seat, was laid out in 1827.

Perry county was formed from Washington, Fairfield and Muskingum March 1, 1817. Fine tobacco is raised in large quantities. Wheat, corn, oats, hay, cattle, pork and wool add to the general wealth. This county was first settled in 1801. The first settler was Christian Binckley, who built the first cabin in the county, about five miles west of Somerset, near the present county line. New Lexington is the county seat.

Paulding county was formed from old Indian Territory August 1, 1820. It is very rich in agriculture and produces corn, wheat, sugar beets and oats. Paulding is the county seat.

Pickaway county was formed from Fairfield, Ross and Franklin January 12, 1810. The county has woodland, barren, plain and prairie. The barrens were covered by shrub oaks and when cleared are adapted to the raising of corn and oats. The Pickaway plains are three and a half miles west of Circleville and this tract is said to contain the richest land in Ohio. Here, in the olden times, burned the great council fires of the red man. Here the allied tribes met General Lewis, who fought the battle of Point Pleasant. Dunmore's campaign was terminated on these plains. It was at the Chillicothe towns, after Dunmore's treaty, that Logan delivered his famous speech. Circleville, the county seat, is situated on the Scioto river and the Ohio canal. It was laid out in 1810 by Daniel Dresbach. It is situated on the site of ancient fortifications.

Portage county was formed June 7, 1807, from Trumbull. It is a wealthy, thriving section. It also produces wheat, corn, oats, barley, buckwheat, rye, butter and wool. Ravenna is the county seat and was originally settled by the Hon. Benjamin Tappen in June, 1799. In 1806 an unpleasant difficulty arose between the settlers and a camp of Indians in Deerfield,

caused by a horse trade between a white man and an Indian. David Daniels settled on the site of Palmyra in 1799.

Pike county was organized in 1815. The surface is generally hilly, which abounds with freestone, which is exported in large quantities for building purposes. Rich bottom lands extend along the Scioto and its tributaries. John Nolan and the three Chenoweth brothers settled on the Pee Pee prairie about 1796. Piketown, the former county seat, was laid out about 1814. Waverly, the present county seat, is situated on the Scioto river.

Preble county was formed March 1, 1808, from Montgomery and Butler. The soil is varied. Eaton, the county seat, was laid out in 1806, by William Bruce, who owned the land. An overflowing well of strong sulphur water is near the town, while directly beside it is a limestone quarry. Holderman's quarry is about two miles distant, from which is obtained a beautifully clouded gray stone. Fort St. Clair was built near Eaton in the winter of 1791-92. General Harrison was an ensign at the time and commanded a guard every other night for three weeks during the building. The severe battle of November 6, 1792, was fought under its very guns. Little Turtle, a distinguished chief of the Miamis, roamed over this county for a time. He was witty, brave and earnest and, although engaged in several severe contests with the whites, he was inclined toward peace. But when his warriors cried for war he led them bravely.

Putnam county was formed April 1, 1820, from old Indian Territory. The soil is fertile, its principal productions being wheat, corn, potatoes and oats. Kalida, once the county seat, was laid out in 1834. Ottawa is the county seat.

Ross county was formed August 20, 1798, by the proclamation of Governor St. Clair and was the ninth county formed in the Northwest Territory. The Scioto river and Paint creek run through it, bordered with fertile lands. It exports cattle and hogs. The Rev. Robert W. Finley, in 1794, addressed a letter of inquiry to Col. Nathaniel Massie, as many of his associates had designed settling in the new state. This resulted in packing their several effects and setting out. A trivial Indian encounter was the only interruption they met with on their way. After Wayne's treaty, Colonel Massie and many of these early explorers met again and formed a settlement—in 1796—at the mouth of Paint creek. In August of this year, Chillicothe was laid out by Colonel Massie in a dense forest. He donated lots to the early settlers. A ferry was established over the Scioto and the opening of Zane's trace assisted the progress of settlement. Chillicothe, the county seat, is situated on the Scioto. Its site is thirty feet above the river. In

1800 it was the seat of the Northwest territorial government. It was incorporated as a city in January, 1802. During the War of 1812, the city was a rendezvous for the United States troops. A large number of British were at one time guarded here. Adena is a beautiful place and the seat of Governor Worthington's mansion, which was built in 1806.

Richland was organized March 1, 1813. It was settled about 1809 on branches of the Mohican. Two block-houses were built in 1812. Mansfield, the county seat, is charmingly situated and was laid out in 1808 by Jacob Newman, James Hedges and Joseph H. Larwell. The county was at that period a vast wilderness, destitute of roads. From this year the settlement progressed rapidly.

Sandusky county was formed April 1, 1820, from the old Indian Territory. The soil is fertile and country generally level. Near Lower Sandusky lived a band of Wyandots, called the Neutral Nation. They preserved their peacemaking attributes through the Iroquois conflicts. Freemont, formerly called Lower Sandusky, the county seat, is situated at the head of navigation on the Sandusky on the site of the old reservation grant to the Indians, at the Greenville treaty council. Fort Stephenson was erected in August, 1813, and was gallantly defended by Colonel Croghan.

Summit county was formed March 3, 1840, from Medina, Portage and Stark. The soil is fertile and produces excellent fruit, besides large crops of corn, wheat, hay, oats and potatoes. The first settlement made in the county was at Hudson in 1800. The old Indian portage-paths, extending through this county, between the Cuyahoga and Tuscarawas branch of the Muskingum. This was a part of the ancient boundary between the Six Nations and the Western Indians. Akron, the county seat, is situated on the portage summit. It was laid out in 1825. In 1811 Paul Williams and Amos and Minor Spicer settled in this vicinity. Middlebury was laid out in 1818 by Norton and Hart.

Starke county was formed February 13, 1808. It is a rich agricultural county. It has large quantities of mineral coal and iron ore. Limestone and extensive beds of lime-marl exist. Frederick Post, the first Moravian missionary in Ohio, settled here in 1761. Canton is the county seat, situated in the forks of the Nimishillen, a tributary of the Muskingum. It was laid out in 1806, by Bezaleel Wells, who owned the land. Massillon was laid out in March, 1826, by John Duncan.

Shelby county was formed in 1819, from Miami. The southern portion is undulating, arising in some places to hills. Through the north it is a flat table-land. The first point of English settlement in Ohio was at the

mouth of Laramie's creek in this county as early as 1752. Fort Laramie was built in 1794 by Wayne. The first white family that settled in this county was that of James Thatcher in 1804. Sidney, the county seat, was laid out in 1819 on the farm of Charles Starrett.

Seneca county was formed April 1, 1820, from the old Indian Territory. Fort Seneca was built during the War of 1812. The Senecas owned forty thousand acres of land on the Sandusky river, mostly in Seneca county. Thirty thousand acres of this land was granted to them in 1817 at the treaty held at the foot of the Maumee Rapids. The remaining ten thousand was granted the following year. These Indians ceded this tract, however, to the government in 1831. It was asserted by an old chief that this band was the remnant of Logan's tribe. Tiffin, the county seat, was laid out by Josiah Hedges in the year 1821.

Scioto county was formed May 1, 1803. It is a good agricultural section, besides producing iron ore, coal and freestone. It is said that a French fort stood at the mouth of the old Scioto as early as 1740. In 1785 four families settled where Portsmouth now stands. Thomas McDonald built the first cabin in the county. The French grant was located in this section—a tract comprising twenty-four thousand acres. The grant was made in March, 1795. Portsmouth, the county seat, is located upon the Ohio.

Trumbull county was formed in 1800. The original Connecticut Western Reserve was within its limits. The county is well cultivated and very wealthy. Coal is found in its northern portion. Warren, the county seat, is situated on the Mahoning river. It was laid out by Ephraim Quinby in 1801. Mr. Quinby owned the soil. His cabin was built here in 1799. In August, 1800, while Mr. McMahon was away from home, a party of drunken Indians called at the house, abused the family, struck a child a severe blow with a tomahawk and threatened to kill the family. Mrs. McMahon could not send tidings which could reach her husband before noon the following day. The following Sunday morning, fourteen men and two boys, armed themselves and went to the Indian camp to settle the difficulty. Quinby advanced alone, leaving the remainder in concealment, as he was better acquainted with these people, to make inquiries and ascertain their intentions. He did not return at once and the party set out, marched into camp and found Quinby arguing with Captain George, the chief. Captain George snatched his tomahawk and declared war, rushing forward to kill McMahon. But a bullet from the frontiersman's gun killed him instantly, while Storey shot "Spotted John" at the same time. The Indians then fled. They joined the council at Sandusky. Quinby garrisoned his house. Fourteen days

thereafter the Indians returned with overtures of peace, which were, that McMahon and Storey be taken to Sandusky, tried by Indian laws, and if found guilty punished by them. This could not be done. McMahon was tried by General St. Clair and the matter was settled. The first missionary on the reserve was the Rev. Joseph Badger.

Tuscarawas county was formed February 15, 1808, from Muskingum. It is well cultivated with abundant supplies of coal and iron. The first white settlers were Moravian missionaries, their first visits dating back to 1761. The first permanent settlement was made in 1803. Mary Heckewelder, the daughter of a missionary, was born in this county April 16, 1781. Fort Laurens was built during the Revolution. It was the scene of a fearful carnage. It was established in the fall of 1778 and placed under the command of General McIntosh. New Philadelphia is the county seat, situated on the Tuscarawas. It was laid out in 1804 by John Knisely. A German colony settled in this county in 1817, driven from their native land by religious persecutions. They called themselves Separatists. They are good people, strictly moral and honest.

Union county was formed from Franklin, Delaware, Logan and Madison in 1820. Extensive limestone quarries are also valuable. The Ewing brothers made the first white settlement in 1798. Col. James Curry, a member of the State Legislature, was the chief instigator in the progress of this section. He located within its limits and remained until his death, which occurred in 1834. Marysville is the county seat.

Van Wert county was formed from the old Indian Territory April 1, 1820. Van Wert, the county seat, was founded by James W. Riley in 1837. An Indian town had formerly occupied its site. Captain Riley was the first white man who settled in the county, arriving in 1821. He founded Willshire in 1822.

Vinton county was organized in 1850. It is drained by Raccoon and Salt creeks. The surface is undulating or hilly. Bituminous coal and iron ore are found. McArthur is the county seat.

Washington county was formed by proclamation of Governor St. Clair July 27, 1788, and was the first county founded within the limits of Ohio. The surface is broken with extensive tracts of level, fertile land. It was the first county settled in the state under the auspices of the Ohio Company. A detachment of United States troops, under the command of Major John Doughty, built Fort Harmar in 1785 and it was the first military post established in Ohio by Americans, with the exception of Fort Laurens, which was erected in 1778. It was occupied by United States troops until 1790.

when they were ordered to Connecticut. A company under Captain Haskell remained. In 1785 the directors of the Ohio Company began practical operations and settlement went forward rapidly. Campus Martius, a stockade fort, was completed in 1791. This formed a sturdy stronghold during the war. During the Indian war there was much suffering in the county. Many settlers were killed and captured. Marietta is the county seat and the oldest town in Ohio. Marietta College was chartered in 1835. Herman Blennerhassett, whose unfortunate association with Aaron Burr proved fatal to himself, was a resident of Marietta in 1796.

Warren county was formed May 1, 1803, from Hamilton. The soil is very fertile and considerable water power is furnished by its streams. Mr. Bedell made the first settlement in 1795. Lebanon is the county seat. Henry Taylor settled in this vicinity in 1796. Union Village is a settlement of Shakers. They came here about 1805.

Wayne county was proclaimed by Governor St. Clair, August 15, 1796, and was the sixth county in the Northwest Territory. The settlement of this section has already been briefly delineated. Wooster is the county seat. It was laid out during the fall of 1808, by John Beaver, William Henry and Joseph H. Larwell, owners of the land. Its site is three hundred and thirty-seven feet above Lake Erie. The first mill was built by Joseph Stibbs in 1809, on Apple creek. In 1812 a block-house was erected in Wooster.

Wood county was formed from the old Indian Territory in 1820. The soil is rich and large crops are produced. The county is situated within the Maumee valley. It was the arena of brilliant military exploits during early times. Bowling Green is the county seat.

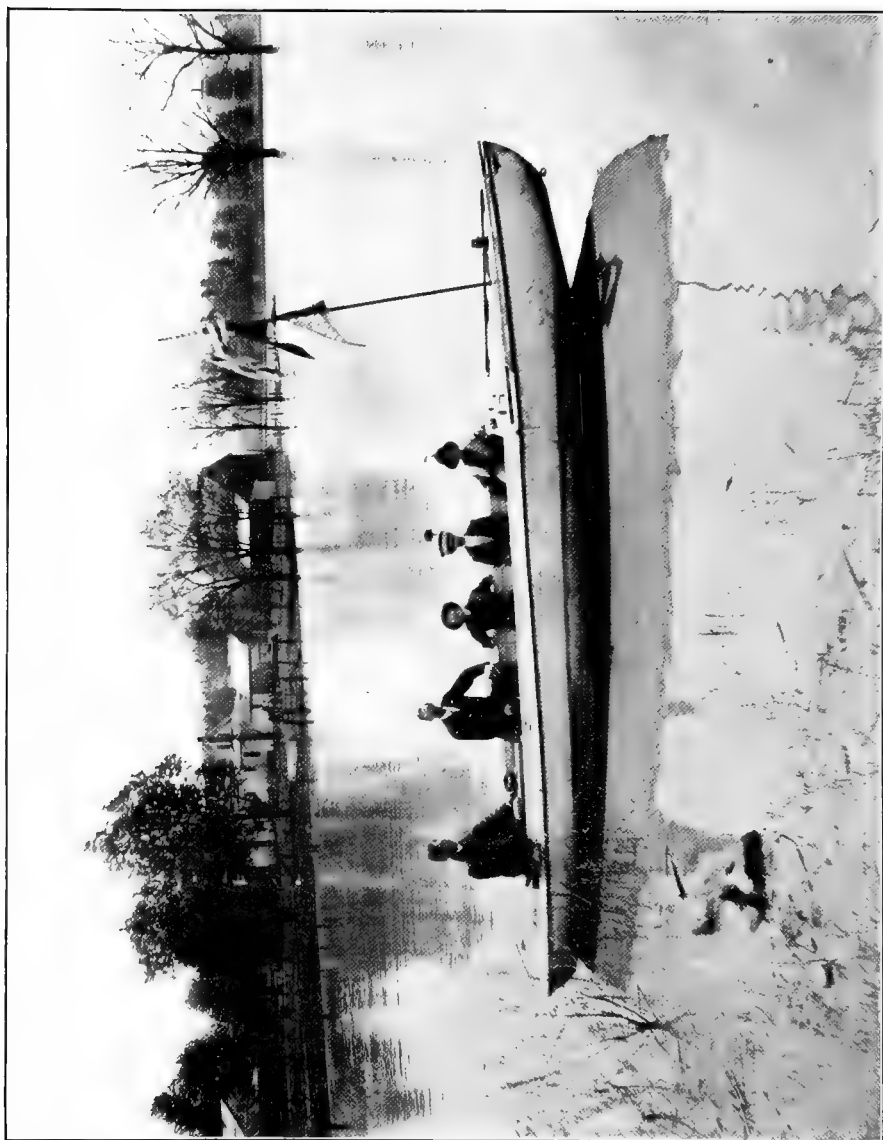
Williams county was formed April 1, 1820, from the old Indian Territory. Bryan is the county seat. It was laid out in 1840.

Wyandot county was formed February 3, 1845, from Marion, Hardin, Hancock and Crawford. The surface is level and the soil fertile. The Wyandot Indians frequented this section. It was the scene of Crawford's defeat in June, 1782, and his fearful death. By the treaty of 1817, Hon. Lewis Cass and Hon. Duncan McArthur, United States commissioners, granted to the Indians a reservation twelve miles square, the central point being Fort Ferree. The Delaware reserve was ceded to the United States in 1829. The Wyandots ceded theirs March 17, 1842. The United States commissioner was Col. John Johnson, who thus made the last Indian treaty in Ohio. Every foot of this state was fairly purchased by treaties. The Wyandots were exceedingly brave and several of their chiefs were men of exalted moral principles.

Upper Sandusky is the county seat and was laid out in 1843. General Harrison had built Ferree on this spot during the War of 1812. Governor Meigs, in 1813, encamped near the river with several thousand of the Ohio militia. The Indian village of Crane Town was originally called Upper Sandusky. The Indians transferred their town, after the death of Tarhe, to Upper Sandusky.







HIGH-WATER MARK ON BLANCHARD RIVER, AT OTTAWA.

## CHAPTER II.

### TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY.

The topography of the land embraced within the county of Putnam is different in some respects from that of the other counties in this part of the state. Although it is uniformly flat, its numerous rivers and streams afford excellent drainage, while a complex system of artificial drainage has brought practically all of the county under cultivation. The rivers and streams are bordered in many cases with high bluffs on one side or the other and these elevations serve to break the monotony of the prairies.

Most of the soil of the county is alluvial in formation and is, in many cases, composed of muck, which, in some townships, is mixed with sand and, in others, with clay. The soil is generally very prolific of all kinds of agricultural products peculiar to this section of Ohio, and in very few instances is it necessary to use fertilizers in order to secure excellent crops. In many places in the county the land was once covered with water and dense aquatic vegetation. Such land has been termed muck land and, after being well drained, makes very productive soil. Early in the history of the county much of the land was covered with swamps and it was many years before the county was brought to its present high state of cultivation.

At the present time about all the land of the county which is not under cultivation is in the beds of the rivers and streams and in that which makes up the public highways. Most of the first settlers located along the streams, not only because they afforded an easy access to the outside world, but also because the land bordering them was easier to cultivate. During the past half century thousands of miles of ditches have been put into operation within the county and the once impenetrable swamps now comprise as fine farming land as may be found in any part of the United States.

Throughout the county, moraines, or ridges of earth higher than the adjacent land, are found in abundance. These moraines are composed of sand and are covered with an alluvial soil, which is black in appearance, but frequently heavily mixed with clay. These moraines are supposed to have been formed during the glacial period by the receding waters of the lake, which, geologists claim, covered the entire northwestern part of Ohio. As this

theory of the formation of the moraines has never been questioned, it may be taken as a fact.

The various rivers and creeks throughout the county have a trend toward the north and all drainage of the county eventually finds its way into the Maumee river. The several streams of the county may be briefly mentioned as follows:

The Auglaize river, or All Glaise or Gaud Glaise, is one of the largest tributaries of the Maumee river. With its many tributaries, the Auglaize drains the greater part of the county. The name of the river betrays its French origin and may be traced back to the time of the occupancy by that nation.

The Ottawa river, familiarly known as Hog creek, was named in honor of the Ottawa Indians who formerly lived within the present limits of this county. The name, Hog creek, seems to have been applied as the result of an interesting incident which happened many years ago. In the Putnam county history by George Skinner, the author explains the origin of the name Hog creek as follows: "While the English had possession of Fort Miami in the Maumee river, parties on that river undertook to supply them with pork. In driving a lot of hogs to the fort they were compelled to cross the Ottawa river, which, at that particular time, was unfortunately very high. The men driving the hogs became frightened at the hostile demonstrations of some Indians whom they encountered along the Ottawa, and, evidently thinking that the Indians were about to attempt to capture some of the hogs, drove part of the porkers into the river. Some of the hogs reached the other side safely, others swam back to the shore from which they started, while still others were drowned in the river. The owners finally abandoned the hogs to their fate, returned home, and from that day forward the Ottawa river has often been called Hog creek."

Blanchard river was formerly known as the North Fork of the Auglaize. It was renamed the Blanchard in honor of a man by that name who is said to have been the first white man to have traded with the Indians up and down the river. He bought their furs and other articles which they had to dispose of and in return doled out to the savages meager portions of powder, beads and such trinkets as were usually handled by the early traders.

Sugar creek derives its name from the fact that in its early history its banks were lined with sugar maple trees. The Indians were wont to repair to the banks of this beautiful little stream every spring for the purpose of making maple sugar, and, after the Indians left, the white men made good use of the many thousands of trees along the river bank.

Riley creek was originally called Deer creek, from the fact that deer abounded in great numbers along its banks in the early history of the county. It was a favorite hunting ground for the Indians, who knew it as Deer creek long before the white man ever saw it. The surveyors who worked in this county in 1820 designated it as Deer creek. The name Riley was applied to the creek in later years, in honor of James Watson Riley, one of the early surveyors of Putnam county. The story is handed down through the years that Riley once nearly lost his life in trying to ford the creek and did actually lose his surveying instruments. His tripod was never found and it is doubtless resting quietly in the bottom of the stream to this day.

Jennings creek received its name in honor of Colonel Jennings, who, in 1812, built a stockade on the Auglaize where the prosperous little village of Ft. Jennings now stands. This same sterling old pioneer left his name on the township in which the town of Ft. Jennings is situated.

Plum creek, as the name indicates, was so named because of the abundance of plum trees which formerly grew along its banks. Fruit of any kind was very scarce in the early days and a wild plum was much better than no plum at all. The Indians were fond of this fruit and every fall visited the creek in order to feast on the delicacy.

Leatherwood creek was named by some of the early surveyors from the fact that its banks were lined with this bush. The pioneers had occasion to resort to the banks of Leatherwood creek frequently for their harness equipment. The tough bark of this bush made an excellent substitute for leather and many an acre of Putnam county land has been plowed the first time by teams using leatherwood harness.

Cranberry creek derived its name from the bush of that name. The succulent cranberry once grew in profusion along the banks of this creek, but has long since disappeared, with the beaver, its best friend.

#### MINERAL RESOURCES OF THE COUNTY.

Putnam county is pre-eminently an agricultural county and finds its greatest wealth in its thousands of fertile acres. While the greater portion of the county is a black loam, there are parts of the county where there are fine clay deposits. As a result there are found many tile and brick factories in the county and the swampy character of the county has made the tile industry a very profitable one.

In many parts of the county limestone deposits occur and a number of

quarries have been opened, which furnish excellent macadamizing material, as well as stone for many other purposes.

In Sugar Creek and Pleasant townships there is a small deposit of yellow clay, but not enough to make it of any commercial value. Throughout the county there are numerous springs of white sulphur, yellow sulphur and limestone water. The medicinal qualities of some of these springs make them of undoubted therapeutic value and in the coming years some enterprising man will find a fortune in this medicine prepared by Dame Nature.

In almost every township in the county wells have been driven for oil and gas, but, while both have been found in limited quantities, the yield has not been sufficient to make the operation of wells a profitable venture.

## CHAPTER III.

### INDIANS IN PUTNAM COUNTY. ,

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#### INDIAN MOUNDS.

The artificial mounds in Putnam county are few in number and much smaller than those in the counties in the southern part of the state, where such mounds are numerous, large in circumference and much greater in height. In fact, throughout the northern part of the state there are no mounds of great altitude. The reason of this may be explained by the fact that the surface of the ground is level and the purposes for which the mounds were built did not exist to an extent requiring greater height in their construction. While this difference exists between the northern and southern parts of this state, there are many features connected with them which are very similar in the matter of construction, location and the contents unearthed by excavation. In this county only five of these mounds are known to be in existence and in investigating the contents, obtained by tunneling and digging to their base, the same features are demonstrated as have characterized such investigations of many of the larger and smaller mounds in the southern half of the state. Here, as well as in southern Ohio, the mounds were not all constructed of the same soil as immediately surrounds them. The soil constituting the interior of these mounds is usually of an alluvial nature and was in some manner conveyed to the place at which the mound was erected. In some instances the soil used was the same as only to be found a thousand feet from the mound. The inside of these mounds was usually constructed of sand and loam, while the outside was covered with clay to the depth of nearly two feet. This clay was so impervious to frost and water that the elements, for ages, have made but little impression on the clay soil. In tunneling these mounds the same features existed in all of them. In the center of each mound, about eighteen inches deeper than the surrounding surface of the ground, there was found charred wood, fragments of calcined stone and bones of animals, all of which had been subject to fire upon being placed there. In no instance were human bones found in

the mounds at this depth below what is now the natural surface of the ground surrounding. The only perceptible rise of the ground for several feet from these mounds may be attributed to the natural wash of rains following the frozen and thawing conditions of the soil. The fact of finding charred wood, animal bones, etc., at such a depth below the surrounding surface may also be explained by the accumulation of soil for ages past. The finding of charred wood, bones, etc., in the center, may be explained by the supposition that, before constructed, a sacrifice or burned offering was a part of a ceremony connected with their building. Another feature connected with these mounds is that in the vicinity where they exist many pieces of broken pottery, arrow heads, stone axes, etc., have been found, and nearly every year now the earth gives up many such things.

Numerous theories have been advanced in regard to these artificial mounds—who built them, for what purposes were they built and as to the period of time at which they were built, but these questions yet remain as a sealed book and may never be satisfactorily answered. While it is conceded that the race of people who constructed these mounds were numerous, intelligent and industrious, yet where these people came from and the time of their activities on earth are also unsolved questions.

If these mounds were built in commemoration of religious events, then their builders were a people who had a religion. If they were built, as some writers claim, for military purposes, then their builders were warriors. If for the latter purpose, then who were the foes they were protecting themselves against? At what period of time did they occupy this portion of the earth or at what time they disappeared from it, no historian has yet attempted to fix, but students who have given the matter consideration agree that the period of time was after the Glacial period or Ice Age. The riddle of the Sphinx still remains unsolved, so does that of the artificial mounds, which exist in about every state of our Union, and in almost every county of Ohio.

While these mounds are commonly designated as "Indian mounds," there is nothing to confirm such designation. It is well known that our American Indians, as a class of people, were indolent and lazy and would never do manual labor except by compulsion, and that they possibly never deviated from their habits in this respect by carrying the dirt from the distance required.

Many writers have expressed opinions about the builders of these mounds, and plausible theories have been advanced, yet these theories are but conjectures and unsustained by absolute facts. Some writers claim



that the people who built them came from southern countries, and that at one time they were inhabitants of Phoenicia, and worked their way northward. Other writers, in trying to explain the disappearance of these people from this country, state that they were destroyed or driven from here by a race of Asiatic Indians, who came to this country by the way of Bering Strait. It is also stated by writers on the subject that when this continent was first discovered the Indians were its only inhabitants and that these Indians had no tradition as to any other people or any wars with any other race of people. But, as we are not an archaeologist, we will not attempt to solve such problems. Yet, in time to come, research by students of the question may result in something tangible in regard to the matter.

Of the five artificial mounds that existed in Putnam county, but one or two now remain, the others having been leveled to the earth by the encroachment of agriculture or for the construction of roads and other purposes for the benefit of mankind today. The artificial mounds of Putnam county were located as follows: The largest one in Perry township, which was possibly fifteen feet high and fifty feet in diameter, but now only about eight feet high. One mile north of this mound was another, located on the banks of the Auglaize river. Scarcely a trace of this mound now exists, nearly all of it being washed away by the encroachment of the river. The third mound was on the Blanchard river, in Greensburg township. Another was on Hog creek, in Union township. Another was located a mile east of Ottawa on what is now the Powell farm. This latter mound is now almost obliterated.

#### AXES AND ARROW HEADS.

In the vicinity of all these mounds, broken pottery, stone axes, arrow heads, etc., are still to be found. The arrow heads are of different colors of flint and of various sizes, from an inch and a half to six inches in length and of geometrical proportions. The stone axes are also of different sizes and of different stone. While nearly all varieties of stone are in evidence, that of limestone does not exist. The shapes of these axes indicate skill in their formation and knowledge of proportion. That the stone was put through a process of hardening or tempering we have no doubt, as in our boyhood days, in southwestern Ohio, we frequently visited a spot of ground upon which were a mass of pieces of stone blocked in shapes and sizes, the locality being no doubt a place where this process was practiced. As to the arrow heads, the manner of their construction has not yet been re-discovered. Several theories have been presented, yet, on trying to work them out, they

have all proved a failure. The problem still remains to be solved. While all these axes are commonly called "Indian axes," the term is a misnomer, so far as the masses of those found is concerned. The only kind of an axe that the Indians were ever known to have made is one made out of blue-clay and dried in the air. It is but a crude imitation of the real stone axe and is deficient in proportion and finish and a poor imitation of the real stone axe.

#### FIRST OWNERSHIP AND OCCUPANCY BY THE INDIANS.

Prior to the year 1763, the Indians had peaceable possession of the lands in this part of Ohio, under the claims of France. During the year 1763, France ceded all its rights to the British government. In 1774, Great Britain, by its Parliament, passed an act declaring ownership of all the territory as far south as the Ohio river, and attached the territory to the province of Quebec.

Great Britain maintained its right to the territory for a period of twenty years, when, in 1783, by the treaty of Paris, it surrendered all claims and the territory became a part of the United States.

#### THE OTTAWA RESERVATION.

By a treaty consummated by our government on September 29, 1777, at "The Foot of the Rapids of the Maumee of the Lakes," the Ottawa Reservation was ceded to the Indians. This treaty stipulates that "There shall be reserved for the use of Ottawa Indians, but not granted to them, a tract of land on Blanchard's fork, of the Great Auglaize river, to contain five square miles, the center of which tract is to be where the old trace crosses the said fork," and "one other tract to contain three square miles, on the Little Auglaize, to include Oc-que-nox-ie village." The reservation given to Oc-que-nox-ie was where the village of Charloe is now located in Paulding county.

The Ottawa Indians were permitted to occupy these reservations until the year 1833, when the United States bought them from the Indians. In the year 1833 our government placed on sale the lands constituting the reservation. The sale was made at Wapakoneta in the fall of that year.

Thus, after occupying the lands, under the United States government, for a period of nineteen years, and possibly for over a hundred years previously by right of possession, the last ownership of the lands by the Indians expired.

During the pending of the treaty granting this reservation there was much contention among the Indians as to whether they would accept the terms of the treaty, claiming that the five square miles did not contain enough land. The advocates of accepting the treaty and those opposing were about equally divided and much bad blood was engendered over the matter. So bitter had the strife become that frequent murders occurred among those favoring and those opposing the treaty. Yet the matter was eventually settled and peace reigned during the after years so long as they occupied the reservation. Many of the chiefs of the tribes located throughout this part of the state were opposed to the provisions of the treaty and only about three hundred of the great number of Ottawa Indians attended the great meeting at which this and other treaties were made at that time. One of the most bitter opponents of the treaty was Oc-que-nox-ie, yet, as he succeeded in getting a reservation of his own, he finally accepted the conditions of the treaty and peace prevailed afterward.

After the purchase of the lands by our government, in 1833, the Indians remained here until about the year 1835-6, when nearly all of them were deported to their new reservation in Missouri, now a part of Kansas. A few stragglers, however, remained here and in the vicinity of Fort Jennings as late as 1839, when the last red man disappeared from Putnam county.

They were unfortunate after leaving their village here. On their way to their new reservation, an epidemic of small-pox visited them and a large number of the tribe died from the disease.

The worst enemy that the Indians had while occupying their Ottawa reservation, was the "fire water" furnished them by traders, who were the worst species of the "boot-legger," and who were the cause of most of the crime that prevailed among the red men at that period. The disease of small-pox was also a great foe among them. It is said that every winter it prevailed among them and caused a great many deaths; in fact, nearly all the deaths by disease were from this cause.

The Ottawa Indians were loath to leave their reservation here. It was an ideal place for making maple sugar, fish were plenty in the river and the territory abounded in game. Ten years after their departure a few of the braves visited this place and remained here for a number of days looking over the land which for so long had been their "happy hunting grounds."

During their occupancy of this reservation, these Indians recognized Pe-ton-i-quet as their chief, yet, in their conversations with the first white settlers, they invariably spoke of him as their "half-chief." On being interrogated as to why they called him their "half-chief," their answer was that

Pe-ton-i-quet had a twin-brother who was a chief, and, as the twin brother had been killed, Pe-ton-i-quet could only be a "half-chief" and not a "full-chief." This was the only reason given by them for their designation. However, all mention of Pe-ton-i-quet by the white men who came here from 1833 to 1836 was favorable to him and all these pioneers agreed upon the fact that he was sober in his habits, honest in his dealings and kind in disposition.

#### THE TAUWAS INDIAN VILLAGE.

The original name of the Indian village located on this reservation was spelled Tauwas, and it so appears in the earliest histories of this part of the state. The name of the village was called Tawa by the early settlers. It is now a part of the town of Ottawa. The village of the Tauwas is known to have been in existence as far back as the year 1750, and was visited by the French missionaries and fur traders from that period as late as 1812, and, in fact, until the year 1832. The village was located on the Indian trace from Wapakoneta to the foot of the Rapids on the Maumee river. This trace crossed the Blanchard river at a point where the river bridge, on the road to Columbus Grove, now stands. The village was supposed to be on this trace and the center of the reservation of five miles square. The village, as it existed in 1830, embraced the territory now north of the Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western railroad, west of the Chicago, Hamilton & Dayton railroad, north as far as the Defiance pike and west to the river. The most pretentious cabin at that time was the council house, constructed of logs and located on what is now Walnut street, on the west side of the street a short distance beyond Tawa run. The trading cabin of Deardorf & Freede, fur traders, was the next cabin of large size. It was located on the rear of the lot now occupied by Mrs. James Ford, and was used by the early French missionaries in which to hold religious services. A crude altar occupied the east part of the building, and at a window in the east end of which, for years, a lamp was kept burning at all hours. This building was designated as "the light house" by persons traveling the trail from east to west. The Indians had "brushed" about five acres of land, in the river bottom immediately west of their village, which they used to raise corn. This cornfield, with another acre, on what is now the Powell farm, was about all the land they cultivated. During the occupancy of the village two or three families of Indians lived on what is now the Powell farm and an Indian burying ground was also on the farm.

During the occupancy of the village it was frequently visited by various

fur traders, to whom the Indians sold their furs for a mere pittance. For years previous to their departure, Pe-ton-i-quet was the only "store-keeper" in the village. His stock in trade consisted of powder, lead, fish-hooks and lines, together with a stock of beads.

#### FAIR TREATMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT.

In our examination of the various treaties made by our government with the Indians who occupied this part of Ohio, we are impressed with the truth that our government in every instance acted in good faith with the Indians. They paid them a big price for their lands, under existing circumstances, and gave them big annuities in money and large tracts of land for what the government received. If "Lo the poor Indian" was ever cheated or robbed, it was by the individual "pale-face" and not by our government.

#### ANCIENT BURIAL PLACES IN PUTNAM COUNTY.

From time to time during the past forty years many skeletons of Indians have been unearthed in various parts of Putnam county, in taking gravel and earth from the various moraines which traverse this county. While a majority of these skeletons are found buried in the usual manner, some differ in this respect. In two or three instances, the bodies unearthed have been found to have been buried in a sitting posture, with face toward the east and with a piece of ancient pottery placed upon the top of the head and various trinkets made of stone and copper placed upon the thigh bones of the bodies. The skeletons of the three found showed that they were of larger proportions than those buried differently. The query presents itself as to whether these few skeletons were those of Indians or of a race of people which preceded them. These three skeletons were found near where an artificial mound exists, and where many fragments of pottery have been found.

One fact is evident, namely, that at the time of burial no regular burying ground existed among the race of people to which they belonged.

While the skeletons of Indians have frequently been found in the various moraines, it is evident that they had no regular burying grounds in this county prior to at least the year 1750. From this date regular burying grounds are known to have been in existence here, the fact being established by silver ornaments made prior to that date being found in the old Indian burying ground in Ottawa.

The best known and largest burying ground of the Indians in Putnam county, is that of the Ottawas, and especially that of the tribe which made this their abiding place for possibly a century of time, or up to the year 1836. The territory embraced in this ancient burying ground is located south of what is now known as Second street, between the old armory building and the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad, and further south to the old bed of the river.

Another burying ground, probably used prior to the one at Ottawa, was on the Powell farm, a mile east of this place, yet the number of Indians buried there is but small in comparison to those buried at Ottawa, as the latter was used until the departure of the Indians from this county.

In digging trenches and in the cultivation of this latter burying ground several skeletons have been unearthed, and in two instances silver ornaments and brooches have been found. A number of years ago, in making a garden, Reverend Miller unearthed a skeleton, on the head of which was a large and beautiful silver crown, upon which was artistically engraved a picture of a deer and buffalo, together with etchings, showing a high state of the engraver's art. Recently a couple of skeletons were unearthed, and upon one was found a silver ornament, in the shape of a saucer. On this ornament was engraved a deer, and the figure also showed a high state of art. At the same time a perfect skull of an Indian was found. The skull was very large, well proportioned and typical of the early Indian.

The ornaments here mentioned were undoubtedly made in France, during the French occupancy of this territory, prior to the Indian-French war against Great Britain in the year 1756. At that period of time the French and Indians were close friends, and quite a number of Frenchmen lived with the Indians, sympathized with them and gave them many presents. It is stated in history that during the same period they were frequently visited by Jesuit missionaries, sent from France to this country, and who did great work in Christianizing and civilizing the Indians for years afterward. In fact, these missionaries and French fur traders were frequent visitors here up to the time our government came in control of this part of the country.

As the finding of these silver ornaments was accidental, these burying grounds no doubt contain a great many more such ornaments, which may some day be brought to light.

The last Indian who made his home in Tawa village was buried here in the year 1835. One was buried near Ft. Jennings, this county, as late as the year 1838-9.

Upon the grounds used here for burial purposes, now and then a silver

brooch is found. Dwelling houses have been erected and time, to all outside appearances, has obliterated every vestige showing that it was once the burial place of members of a great nation of people of whom Pontiac was a great chief.

Will the time ever come when another race of people can thus write of the burial place of those who now occupy the territory once an abiding place of the Ottawa Indians?

#### THE OTTAWA INDIAN RESERVATION AND TAWA VILLAGE.

While the Maumee valley was the scene of many stirring events over a century ago, and while the many histories of the state are prolific in reference to the most important of these events, there are many incidents of lesser importance, pertaining to immediate vicinities, which interest those who now have an abode in the particular vicinity in which the events occurred. This is especially true with the descendants of the early pioneers whose ancestors were familiar with the local events, either by participation in or by traditions obtained from the remnant of a great tribe of red men, who at the time were occupants, if not owners, of the country now possessed by the white man.

On the 29th day of September, 1817, our government, through its commissioners, Gen. Lewis Cass and Gen. Duncan McArthur, negotiated a treaty with the remnant of the Ottawa tribes in this part of the country. This treaty, in article six, stipulates that "there shall also be reserved for the use of the Ottawa Indians, but not granted to them, a tract of land on Blanchard's fork of the great Auglaize river, to contain five miles square, the center of which tract is to be where the old trail crosses the said fork, and one other tract to contain three miles square on the little Auglaize river, to include Ockquenox's village."

As usual, this seemingly generous gift to the "noble red man" had a "string" to it and he could only possess the broad acres for such a time as the government might decree. The more intelligent of the Indians, of course, did not like the treaty, but as they rendered but little or no service to our government during the War of 1812, they were not in position to ask more, and therefore sullenly acquiesced in the treaty.

Prior to 1812, Tawa village consisted of some twenty-five "shacks" or cabins, very few of which possessed the dignity of a cabin, the most being constructed of a few poles set in the ground and covered with bark. This village was located on both banks of Tawa run and extended from the Cin-

cinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad to the mouth of the run. These, with a few "shacks" located near what is now known as "Gypsy Lane," constituted the abode of all the Ottawa Indians in this immediate vicinity.

During the period from 1812 to 1817, we cannot furnish the names of the chiefs who headed the tribe, but have been informed that there were several and that considerable jealousy existed among them in regard to this matter, and that two of the chiefs were killed by members of their own tribe on account of these jealousies.

When Colonel Hollister, as commissioner, deported the remnants of all the tribes, it was difficult to get them to go to their new home, now in Franklin county, Kansas. Some forty of those located here and on the Auglaize refused to go, among whom were Pe-ton-i-quet, Tom Kinzie Mino, Black Jonathan and the vagabond, Tom. However, these, with the remainder of the forty, were, a year or two afterward, gathered together and taken to their new reservation beyond the Mississippi, so that in the year 1840 not a single man of the tribe was to be found within the confines of this county.

Other Indians of the Ottawa tribe, under the chiefs No-wah, Ockquenox, Charloe, Ottaca, also disappeared from this part of the state, and this was the "last of the Ottawas" so far as northwestern Ohio is concerned. Among these chiefs, Ockquenox was possibly the greatest warrior. He was brave, and as cruel as he was brave, and dissipation in the end made him a very bad Indian. He was hard to conciliate, and it took three miles square of very good land to square him with the government. About the year 1827 he killed his son-in-law and grandson, for which crime he was tried by a council of chiefs and sentenced to be beheaded. However, instead of carrying out this sentence, one of deposition was substituted.

#### FORT JENNINGS.

In 1812-13, during the war of this period, General Harrison erected a fort on the Auglaize river and named it Ft. Jennings, in honor of Colonel Jennings. The location of this fort is where the village of Ft. Jennings now stands. It was established as a base for supplies and as intermediate between Ft. Recovery and Ft. Defiance. Colonel Jennings, with three regiments of militia, was stationed for some time at the fort awaiting the arrival of troops who were detained by high water. While there, detachments from the regiments were sent down the Auglaize and up the Blanchard and Hog creek, to ascertain the situation among the Indians, the Ottawa was not being regarded as very friendly to our government.



On one of these expeditions a detachment of militia came to Tawa village and camped on the south bank of the river, where the ice house of Mr. Myers is now located. The militia remained for about a week, and while there, burned the village, the Indians having left, taking with them all the camp equipage they could conveniently carry, hiding the remainder and burying their grain before leaving. The troops also destroyed the "shacks" east of Ottawa, on the Agner farm.

At the close of the war the Indians again made Tawa village their home. They built a number of "shacks" and several cabins. They were here but a short portion of their time, being frequently away on hunting expeditions. For a number of years they led a dissolute life and did nothing in particular to attract more than passing notice.

About the year 1816-17, they selected Pe-ton-i-quet as their chief. Pe-ton-i-quet was not a full-blooded Indian, his father being a Frenchman and his mother an Ottawa squaw. In intelligence he was far ahead of his tribe, the greater part of which were not a very high type of even the red man. He was a man of integrity, an honest trader and humane in his relations with the Indian and white man, both of whom had confidence in his honesty.

From 1817 to the time when the tribes were deported to Kansas, they lived a dissolute life. "Fire water" had been introduced among them to such an extent that dissipation had made them physical wrecks. This, with disease, had greatly reduced their number, deaths being double that of births.

#### A BIT OF SQUAW JUSTICE.

Among the Ottawa Indians of this reservation was one called Tom. Tom was the most worthless vagabond known to exist among all the tribes of the Ottawas. He was a thief and an habitual drunkard, too lazy even to hunt or fish. He had a wonderful thirst for strong liquor; being drunk was his normal condition, being sober the exception. Tom, when on an extra big drunk, celebrated the occasion by whipping his squaw. The squaws, to even up with him, furnished him an extra amount of "red liquor," which made him helplessly drunk. While in this condition they caught him, took him down along the river bank and, after divesting him of all his clothing, tied him to a log and left him all night to the mercy of the mosquitoes. It is said that next morning Tom was scarcely recognizable by any of his companions. This bit of squaw justice worked to the full satisfaction of the squaws, and ever afterward, when Tom became abusive, all they had to do was to "buzz" like a mosquito and he fully understood their meaning. Tom

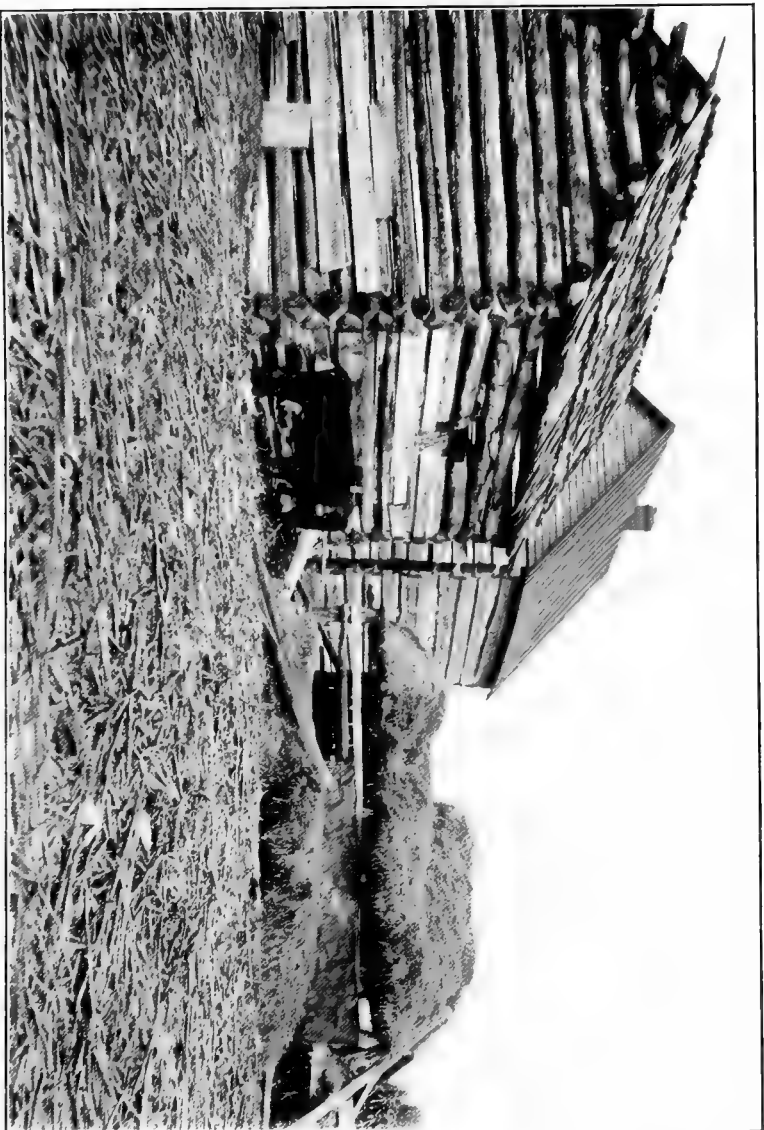
went west with the other Indians of his tribe, who were very anxious to leave him behind and tried many plans to consummate their desire.

#### A TOUGH CITIZEN OF THE RESERVATION.

While Tom was a very worthless Indian, he was a saint in comparison with a vagabond Englishman who came to the reservation about the year 1820. His name was John Race and his wife was a half-breed Indian squaw. They lived in a cabin located on the southeast corner of what is now the county fair grounds. Race was supposed to have been a refugee who sought seclusion among the Indians to avoid punishment for some crime he had committed elsewhere. He was of vicious temper and was always scheming to make trouble between the Indians and the early white settlers who came here some years later. He resorted to the most contemptible means to foment discord. An incident is related wherein he almost succeeded in causing serious trouble. He had a daughter aged about eleven years. One day the daughter was found dead along the river bank near his cabin. She had been shot, the bullet passing through her head. Race said that the girl had been killed by a certain white settler with whom he had had some difficulty. The fact of his having an Indian wife and he being intimate with the Indians, caused a number of them to believe his statement and for a short time considerable anxiety existed among the earlier settlers. Some years later, Race severely chastized his wife and she, in retaliation, stated that it was he who had killed his own child because the girl refused to do some trifling thing he had commanded. It was said that the little girl was very pretty and that she was white and possessed no marks of the Indian, notwithstanding her mother was a squaw. The little girl was the first white child buried on the reservation. She was laid to rest a few rods from where the grand stand on the fair grounds now stands. Otho Crawfis, Sr., and George Agner, Sr., from whom the writer of this article obtained his information, were present at the burial.

#### "THE LIGHT HOUSE."

Perhaps there may be a difference of opinion among the descendants of the early pioneers of this locality as to where, when and by whom, the first hewed log house or cabin was built on grounds now a part of Ottawa. The writer is almost convinced that the first hewn log cabin built by a white man on the reservation was one built, about the year 1817-18, by French fur traders who came here to trade with the Indians. This was a hewed



A REMINDER OF PIONEER DAYS.



log cabin and the only one of the kind found here in 1833-4, when the first settlers came. This cabin was then in such a decayed condition that it was not fit for occupancy. The roof had tumbled in and weeds had grown up inside and outside of it. This cabin was located on the lot now owned and occupied by Mrs. James Ford. William Galbreath later took the logs to his farm along the river. The Indians called it the "Light House," possibly from the fact that the fur traders kept a light burning in the cabin throughout the night. The cabin was also used by the early missionaries, who made it their home while here on their labors among the Indians. There is a tradition connected with this cabin to the effect that it was built by the traders prior to the year 1812, and that when Tawa village was burned the cabin was not disturbed, from the fact that evidence existed that it was used by the missionaries as a place of worship. However there is no reliable information to substantiate this tradition. The only thing confirmatory is the dilapidated condition of the cabin at the time when the first settlers came as it was then in ruins, the ravages of time and the elements having produced the decay. It may have been built as tradition states. However, when the first settlers came here there was a large cabin still standing. It was sided with slabs cut from logs, and was occupied by a fur trader named Fredee, who was a Frenchman. A man named Deardoff, also a Frenchman, occupied the cabin after Fredee. This cabin was the most pretentious in the village at that time.

#### THE SUGAR CAMPS OF THE INDIANS.

About the only industry, outside of hunting and fishing, indulged in by the Indians of this reservation, was that of making sugar from the sap of the sugar maple tree. That this industry was carried on by the Ottawa Indians at a very early date, there is much evidence available. The principal sugar camps in the reservation were located but a short distance east and west of Tawa village. The one at the east was the most extensive and was located in the bend of the river east of the county fair grounds, while that on the west was located south of the Defiance road on what is known as the Galbreath farm, where yet remain quite a number of very old sugar trees. The trees constituting the larger camp, that east of the village, were tapped for sap as late as the year 1870 by the owners of the land. In that year the ground was cleared of the trees by David Cox, who owned the land at that time. In converting the trees into firewood the Indian process of tapping was plainly to be seen, although the trees had grown to much greater dimensions during nearly the half century which had passed since the Indians had utilized them.

## CHAPTER IV.

### EARLY SETTLERS OF PUTNAM COUNTY, 1824-1834.

The first white family in Putnam county was that of Henry Leaf, who built a cabin on the south side of the Blanchard river, on section 10, Greensburg township, where he remained some time. He removed from that point and built another cabin on the Auglaize river, at the junction of the Blanchard with the Auglaize, where he was living in 1824. This man could hardly be considered a resident of the county, as he lived with the Indians, moved when they did, and when they were removed to the West, he went with them, and ended his days there.

In 1824, David Murphy, with his family, came down the Blanchard river in a canoe from Fort Findlay, landed at the mouth of the Blanchard, built a cabin of poles, and became the first permanent white settler in the county. His wife was the first person buried in the cemetery at Kalida, and at her side the remains of her husband were deposited. During the year 1824, Silas McClish, Thomas McClish and Jack McClish settled a mile below Murphy on the west side of the Auglaize. William Bowen settled three miles south, and William Patton fourteen miles south.

1825—Henry Wing, Daniel Sullivan, William Craig, Daniel Pelke, Sebastian Sroufe and Thaddeus Harris.

1826—John Ridenour and his sons, Michael, Daniel and Jacob; Demmitt Mackerel, Frederick and William Stevens, William H. Harris and Samuel Washburne.

1827—Josiah Clawson, Joel Wilcox, William Bishop, William Cochran, Cephas Cary, John Cary, Philip Comer and William Scott.

1828—William Frasee, David Sroufe, Henry Comer, A. E. Martin, Robert Martin and Solomon Sprague.

1829—S. L. Norris, Ellison Ladd and Jonathan Wiland.

1830—William Clevenger, Nutter and Joshua Powell, Isaac Owens, Joseph, Samuel, Jacob and George Clevenger.

1831—Peter Rhodes, Abraham Sarber, O. W. Crawfis, Samuel Hall and John Guffy.

1832—Jacob Rimer, Abraham Hardin, J. R. Rimer, John Myers, Sr., Abraham and James Crow, Obed Martin, Samuel Hall and H. M. Crawfis.

1833—J. Y. Sackett, John Sigafos, Stansbury Sutton, Hiram Sarber, Frederick Brower, John B. Bogart, Adam Sarber, William Guffy, James Nicholas, Thomas Watkins, Henry Wellman and C. Raabe.

1834—William Galbreath, Enoch Wicks, John Crawfis, Moses Lee, Hugh Crawford, Robert and Isaac McCracken, Sheldon Guthrie and many others.

#### THE GERMAN-SWISS SETTLEMENT.

By U. S. Steiner.

It is now nearly eighty-two years since the Germans, or rather Swiss and French, commenced what has become well known as the "German settlement" and a short history of it, and a few incidents of pioneer life may not be uninteresting. In the spring of 1838, Michael Neuenschwander (a native of Alsace, who came to this country in 1823 and settled in Wayne county) and his eldest son, John B., a young man of twenty-three, came west to seek a new home. Their object was to find an unoccupied place, that could be developed into a rich country, where land could be bought cheap. Having heard of such a place in Putnam county (Richland township was then a part of Putnam county), they came directly here and, being pleased with it, picked out two quarter sections. They then went down to Piqua, where the government land office was located, and entered the land. One of these pieces was cleared up and occupied by Daniel Neuenschwander until his death, which occurred on August 2, 1893. They then went back home to Wayne county, this state, and made preparation to leave for the west—the new home in the wilderness. They started on the last Friday in August, 1833, and arrived at their destination in eleven days, which was doing well, as it took some who came after them fourteen days. The family was composed of the parents and three sons, John B., aged twenty-three, Daniel, twenty-one, and Michael, ten years. They came in a covered wagon, with a team of horses and a yoke of oxen before it. It was very dry when they arrived and, as there was no water on their land, they sought another quarter section where water was plentiful and found one. This was afterward occupied by the family and the youngest son, Michael, until their deaths, that of the mother occurring on February 13, 1846, in her sixty-seventh year; that of the father on March 10, 1854, aged seventy-four years and one day, and that of the son, Michael, on July 22, 1893. Again the father and eldest son went to Piqua to secure that land, and while they were gone the mother and the other two boys camped on an island in Riley creek,

near Abraham Basinger's, during which time Daniel watched the horses and cattle, and also made a pair of shoes. When the father and son returned, they moved on the last-entered land, on which they had a spring and creek, and commenced putting up a cabin and preparing for winter. That winter was so mild that the ground never froze hard enough to bear up a loaded wagon. Their neighbors were Thomas Gray, on the farm now occupied by Abraham Bixel; John Sigafosse, on the one now occupied by Jacob Lugibill; Christopher Miller, west of Rockport, and John Stout, near Pandora, then called Pendleton.

They were here a year before others followed, but in the fall of 1834 there came an addition of four families, that of Christian Suter, afterward minister and bishop of the congregation; Dorse Amstutz; Christian Bucher, who died at the advanced age of one hundred years, seven months and twenty-two days, and John Moser, who subsequently moved to Lucas county. A good many came here that year to secure land and moved on it later. In 1853, and later on, people flocked in from Switzerland, Alsace, and Wayne and Holmes counties, Ohio, Virginia, etc., among whom were the Steiners, Schumachers, Basingers, Lugibills, Geigers and others.

#### HARDSHIPS OF THE PIONEERS.

The hardships of the pioneers can be better imagined than expressed. Think of going to Piqua without more of a road than a cow path, or hardly that. The land office was afterward moved to Wapakoneta. The first flour that Mr. Neuenschwander bought was at Sidney, but they soon commenced to keep it at Lima, and then it was considered so handy to get that Mr. Neuenschwander thought he would lay in a supply. He needed a good deal, as all who came to look at land stayed with him, so he bought eleven barrels at one time, at eleven dollars per barrel. His son Daniel packed it all home on one horse. He said there was no hour in the night that he was not on his way between here and Lima. He had a big horse, would throw a sack or two on his back, get on himself and start for home, it made no difference whether it was day or night, as the horse would keep the path. One evening he started from Lima after dark, in company with two other men. Alternately one rode and the other two walked behind; when about two miles from home the hat of the rider was caught by a limb and dropped, and they had to search about half an hour before they found it, as it was very dark and they had no means of making a light. Once or twice they went to Maumee City to mill, and when good mills were put up at Delphos and the



canal was built, that place became a good market, which was considered very handy. The first year that Mr. Neuenschwander was here the two eldest boys went to Eagle Creek, Hancock county, for a load of corn. They started home from there one morning after breakfast, and it took them till noon the next day to get home, during which time they had nothing to eat but raw corn. At another time, when they had wheat to sell, the same two started, each with a load of thirty-two bushels and a double team. They went to Findlay, where they were offered fifty cents a bushel for their wheat, but refused to take it, and went on to Sandusky where they got sixty-two cents. It took them thirteen days to make the trip, during which time they had no warm meals and slept in no bed.

Daniel also hauled wheat for neighbors to Tiffin; the wheat was sold for from sixty to seventy cents per bushel, he getting twenty cents a bushel for hauling. Other settlers had the same experiences, but it seems that they were all able to meet the severest hardships of those times without a murmur of discontent and always looked at the brightest side. But few of the first settlers are still living, John F. Steiner and Henry Shank, both over ninety years of age, Mrs. John S. Steiner, Peter Bucher and wife. Peter and Mrs. Chr. Suter, Barbara Basinger, Barbara Schumacher and probably a few others. B. Lugibill, who was born in 1836, is the oldest voter born in Richland township.

#### PIONEER HONEYMOONS.

A year after Mr. Neuenschwander moved here his two eldest sons, John B. and Daniel, went back to Wayne county and were both married on August 11, 1834. They soon returned with their young and happy wives. They had one horse and the women might have ridden him alternately, but Daniel's wife was not used to riding horseback and preferred to walk; they made the trip, so they claimed, in three days. A year later, September 15, a daughter was born to John B. and wife, who died several years ago in Kansas; and two months later a daughter was also born to Daniel and wife. This one became the wife of the writer of this sketch and never lived over a mile from where she was born. Now in the eightieth year of her age she is still hearty, though she had rather more than her share of the hardships and privations of that pioneer life. Mrs. Peter Bixel (nee Suter) was the first person born here who grew up. These pioneers can truly say that they first beheld the country a wilderness and saw it changed into a garden; and out of a comparatively sickly country (there being malaria at times) made one conducive to health and long life.

## THE MENNONITES.

The Wyandot Indians were still at Upper Sandusky and often passed through here on their way to Defiance and return, but the settlers were never molested by them. The "settlement" has continually widened and its borders almost reach Beaverdam, Rockport, Columbus Grove, and Gilboa. Bluffton and Pandora are about it. The prevailing religion is the Mennonite, but they are unhappily divided into four denominations; however, the original congregation is keeping the lead and has about nine hundred and fifty members. The preaching is mostly in German language and the schools are still taught in the English and German languages. We said above that the original congregation has nine hundred and fifty members; the American Mennonites have upward of twenty families; the New Mennonites about twenty, and the Egly congregation is quite small, many of its former adherents having joined the Alliance and the Dowie faith.

The people, as a rule, are generous, industrious, economical and pious, and the settlement stands second to no other place, probably in the whole United States, in regard to good roads, good buildings and beautiful farms.

Most of the Mennonites are strong adherents of the creed laid down by their founder and subsequent teachers. A few adhere to a peculiar garb and other antique practices, but in the main they are moving along with the stream of time, though guarding diligently against all innovations that might be a serious injury to their good name, their homes and their church. They are greatly opposed to secret societies, and have been very successful so far in keeping their members out of them. The old and the Zion congregation have elected most all their preachers so far by lot and they generally have from two to four; they have even elected their deacons the same way, all for life, whether they prove to be competent or not, but we venture the prediction that this practice will soon die out and that they will choose and treat their ministers the same as other churches do. The New Mennonites and the Egly's choose their ministers from their own members and put them on probation. These different churches have five Sunday schools, four young people's societies and two women's sewing circles.

## CHAPTER V.

### COUNTY ORGANIZATION.

In Chapter I, on related state history, an account is given of the organization of the Northwest Territory and the creation of the state of Ohio. From the day the state was admitted to the Union, March 1, 1803, down to the present time, comprises a period of one hundred and twelve years. Starting out with less than a dozen counties in 1803, the state now has eighty-eight counties, which have been organized from year to year as the territory was bought from the Indians and settled up by the whites.

The territory now comprised within the limits of Putnam county was originally within two separate Indian cessions, the Ottawa Reserve, of twenty-five miles, and that secured by the treaty of September 29, 1817. This treaty was consummated at the Foot of the Rapids of Lake Erie and was negotiated by Lewis Cass and Duncan McArthur, commissioners on the part of the United States, and the many different chiefs and sachems, representing the Wyandot, Seneca, Delaware, Shawnee, Pottawattamie, Ottawa and Chippewa tribes of Indians.

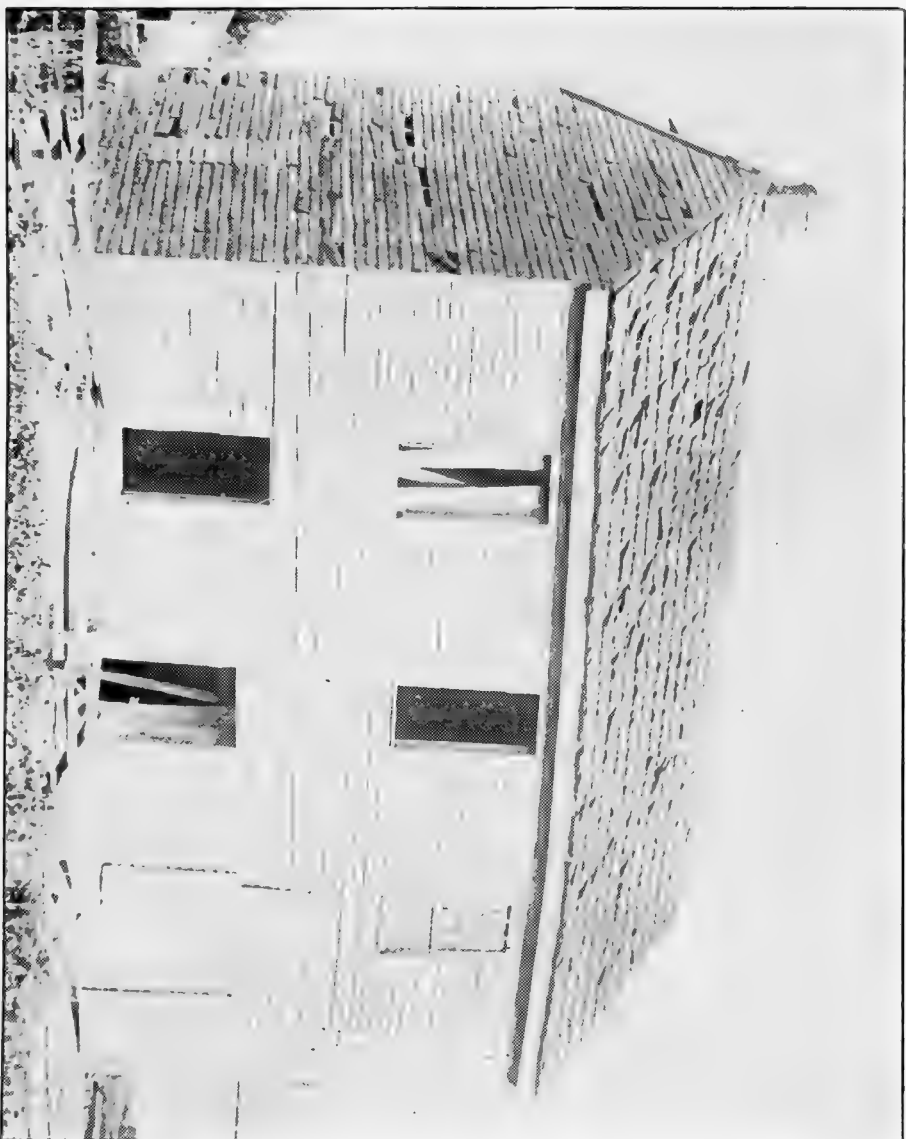
The state Legislature of Ohio, by the act of February 12, 1820, organized Putnam county with the following limits: "Towns 1 and 2 south, and 1 and 2 north of ranges 5, 6, 7 and 8, east of the first meridian of Ohio." Each town (or township, as they are now called) contained thirty-six sections, one mile square, the whole county containing five hundred and seventy-six square miles. The county was cut off from Williams county, but the population was so sparse that it was not until fourteen years later that the county was formally organized and permitted to take its place as an independent political district. The scarcity of population is shown by the fact that only one hundred and sixty-three votes were cast at the first election in 1834.

It is very unfortunate that the early court records of the county are not complete, due to the burning of the court house at Kalida in the fall of 1864, but the first steps in the definite organization of the county have been well established. In accordance with a legislative act, passed in 1834, the governor of the state appointed William Cochran, Henry Morris and Silas McClish as associate judges of the court of common pleas of the county. These men

were intrusted with the duty of formally organizing the county and, pursuant to the act providing for their appointment, they met on May 8, 1834, at the house of Abraham Sarber, in Kalida, and took the first steps in starting the county. After being sworn in as provided by law, they proceeded to complete the organization of the county by appointing Daniel W. Gray as clerk of the court; Amos Evans, prosecuting attorney; Abraham Sarber, town clerk; Thomas Gray, William Priddy and Samuel Myers, county commissioners; F. C. Fitch, surveyor; John Cochran, A. E. Martin, Isaac Owens, James Nichols and Daniel W. Gray, school examiners. The judges concluded their day's work by ordering an election to be held on the thirty-first of the same month for the purpose of electing a sheriff and coroner. Thus was Putnam county ushered in as an independent county and may it be said to the credit of these first county officials that they performed their several duties in such a manner as to earn the commendation of their fellow citizens. Their duties were not onerous, in view of the fact that the county was very thinly settled, but what they did do was done in an efficient and painstaking manner.

#### LOCATION OF COUNTY SEAT.

For some reason which has not been ascertained, the county seat was definitely located in 1829, five years before the county was organized. The state Legislature, by the act of February 12, 1829, appointed a commission to locate and name a county seat, and it is presumed that the site the commission finally selected was the center of population of the county. Kalida, the site finally chosen, is located in section 5, township 1 south, range 6 east. This little village was located near the confluence of Plum and Sugar creeks and is now in Union township. After the organization of the county, on May 8, 1834, the county commissioners purchased all of section 5, which had not been previously bought, had it laid off into lots and ordered the town director to sell the lots at the best possible price. The money thus obtained was to be used in the erection of a court house and jail. A frame court house was built and a jail of heavy timbers was hastily erected to accommodate the few offenders who might need incarceration. In 1839 these frame structures were replaced by substantial brick buildings in Kalida and they remained in use until December 18, 1864, when the court house was burned down. On October 9, 1866, an election removed the county seat to Ottawa, where it has since remained. The vote to change the county seat was carried by a majority of four hundred and eighty-five. The citizens of



PITMAN COUNTY'S FIRST COURT HOUSE, AT KALIDA.



Ottawa deposited fifteen thousand dollars with the county commissioners to guarantee the erection of a court house.

#### CHANGES IN AREA.

It has been stated that the county of Putnam was organized with an area of five hundred and seventy-six square miles and it retained this area until 1848, when Auglaize county was organized by the state Legislature. At this time Richland township, the southeastern township of the county, was detached and made a part of Allen county. The following separate tracts were also taken from Putnam county at that time and added to Allen county: the southern tier of sections of Riley township; the entire township of Monroe (township 2 south, range 7 east); three tiers of sections from the south side of Sugar Creek township; three tiers of sections from the south side of Jennings township. These deductions from the original area of Putnam county were partially offset by the addition of the eastern half of township 1 south, range 4 east, now a part of Monterey township, which had been a part of VanWert county. By these various changes the county was reduced to an area of four hundred and eighty square miles and this has remained the area of the county down to the present time. However, it should be noted that the territory detached meant a great loss to the county. It included much of the best improved land of the county and contained the thriving villages and towns of Bluffton, Beaver Dam, West Cairo and that part of Delphos situated east of the Miami and Erie extension canal. In May, 1853, the county commissioners of Allen and Putnam counties met and agreed upon the sum of three thousand, eight hundred and forty-eight dollars and seventy-six cents, due Putnam county from Allen county, as compensation for territory taken from Putnam and added to Allen county.

#### TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION.

There were some townships organized within the present limits of Putnam county before it was formally organized in 1834. With the many changes in county limits and the increase in population from year to year, new townships were created and the limits of old townships were changed. The following table exhibits the organization of the various townships of the county, and the history of the townships will be taken up in the order of their creation:

Townships.	Organized.	Square Miles.
Perry -----	1828	30
Union -----	1832	30
Sugar Creek -----	1832	30
Jackson -----	1832	26
Jennings -----	1833	28
Blanchard -----	1833	36
Pleasant -----	1834	36
Riley -----	1834	30
Greensburg -----	1834	30
Ottawa -----	1835	36
Liberty -----	1837	36
Van Buren -----	1843	36
Monterey -----	1850	24
Monroe -----	1852	36
Palmer -----	1854	36

The exact dates of the organization of these various townships has not been ascertained owing to the absence of the early commissioners' and trustees' records, but it is believed that the dates as stated above are correct. They were given by the late George Skinner in his history of the county in 1880 and he was as good an authority on the history of the county as any man then living. Mention has been made of the decrease in the original area of the county with the detachment of a strip of varying width which was taken from the county in 1848 and added to Allen county. Two whole townships were detached at that time—Richland and Monroe, being south of Riley and Pleasant townships, respectively. One tier of townships was taken from Riley township and added to Richland and after the latter was joined to Allen county it still retained its old name as a part of Allen county. Sugar Creek township was halved by the act of 1848 and both halves retain the old name. Jennings township was also cut in two, but the part added to Allen became a part of Marion township in the latter county. Monterey township, three by six miles, was organized from territory which was taken from VanWert county by the Legislature. Many of these townships have had some changes in their limits at various times.

#### COUNTY OFFICIALS.

The following is a list, as nearly as can be ascertained, of the officials of Putnam county since its organization in 1834:



## CLERK OF COURTS.

Daniel W. Gray, 1834-37; James Taylor, 1837-44; Moses Lee, 1844-51; R. W. Thrift, 1851-52; David I. Brown, 1852-58; John Buchanan, 1858-64; R. J. Spelman, 1864-70; Samuel B. Rice, 1870-76; John T. Thrift, 1876-79; Jacob J. Zeller, 1879-85; R. J. Spelman, 1885-87; H. W. Schmitschulte, 1887-95; Christ Beutler, 1895-1901; A. P. Sandles, 1901-07; Joseph H. Gosling, 1907-1911; W. M. George, 1911 to the present time.

All of these officials have been elected by the Democratic party with the exception of John T. Thrift.

## AUDITOR.

The county records do not show who the auditor was at the time the county was organized in 1834. For many years the auditor was elected every two years, but since the change in the constitution he holds for four years. One of the odd things disclosed by the old records was the name of "Sam Weaver," when his name should have been Samuel P. or S. P. Weaver. Reed and Jones are the only Republicans ever elected to the office, although it is thought that Creighton, because he served only one term, was a Whig. The list as taken from the records is as follows: W. Risley, 1838-44; J. E. Creighton, 1844-46; Neham Smith, 1846-50; William Bell, 1850-54; John Monroe, 1854-58; J. H. Smith, 1858-62; F. H. Rothman, 1862-66; Sam Weaver, 1866-70; John Deffenbaugh, 1870-74; Bernard Lehmkuhle, 1874-78; Louis Lehmkuhle, 1878-84; William Place, 1884-90; W. F. Reed, 1890-93; Aaron Overbeck, 1893-96; J. C. Jones, 1896-99; L. N. Welde, 1899-1905; Joseph Kersting, 1905-11; J. E. Roose, 1911 to the present time.

## RECORDER.

Moses Lee, 1834-41; Jabez S. Spencer, 1841-47; John Dixon, 1847-49; Jabez S. Spencer, 1849-53; F. W. Schierloh, 1853 (appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Spencer, and served until the close of the term); Joseph Tingle, 1853-56; John Nicewarner, 1856-59; Peter J. Bowman, 1859-65; James Monroe, 1865-72; W. N. Wetherell, 1872-78; William Alt, 1878-84; L. M. Ludwig, 1884-90; Joseph Justice, 1890-96; John Cowan, 1896-1902; Frank Gmeiner, 1902-09; H. C. Hummon, 1909-1912; Theodore Heckman, 1912 to the present time.

## TREASURER.

The first transaction in the treasurer's office of Putnam county reads as follows: "July 1, 1834—Received cash of Abraham Sarber, town director of Kalida, \$1,388." All of the treasurers have been Democrats with the exception of W. S. Lenhart. C. M. Godfrey was probably a Democrat at the time he was elected, although he later became one of the pillars of the Republican party in this county. The complete list of treasurers follows: J. M. Cochran, 1834-37; Moses Lee, 1837-39; F. H. Gillette, 1839-43; C. M. Godfrey, 1843-47; O. W. Crawfis, Sr., 1847-51; Stansbury Sutton, 1851-55; Z. R. McClure, 1855-59; F. S. Godfrey, 1859-63; N. H. McCracken, 1863-67; Henry Montooth, 1867-71; William McClure, 1871-February 11, 1875; Stansbury Sutton, February 11, 1875-September, 1875 (McClure died in office and Sutton was appointed to fill his unexpired term); N. H. McCracken, 1875-79; H. L. McDowell, 1879-83; L. N. Parker, 1883-87; O. W. Crawfis, Jr., 1887-91; W. S. Lenhart, 1891-93; Joseph Leopold, 1893-97; Ralph G. Spencer, 1897-1901; George D. Kinder, 1901-05; Herman McDougale, 1905-1909; Frank J. Kohls, 1909-13; Charles E. Kohls, 1913 to the present time.

## SHERIFF.

Every sheriff of Putnam county has been elected by the Democrats and, judging from the majorities which the sheriffs have been receiving, it seems like it will be many years yet before this unbroken record will be changed. Many of these sheriffs could tell some very interesting stories if they cared to disclose their experiences while in the discharge of their duties. One sheriff, Sherrard, hung a man by the name of Goodman on the spot where the old jail stood. It is probable that Sherrard had more exciting experiences than any other sheriff. The most famous jail delivery the county has ever known occurred during his administration, when murderer Goodman and several other prisoners tried to escape. Sherrard was struck with a brick-bat in a stocking by one of the prisoners, and the desperate criminals seized his keys and made a dash for liberty. Fortunately, nearly all were captured within a short time. The complete list of sheriffs of the county is as follows: William Cochran, Jr., 1834-38; David S. Gibbs, 1838-42; T. R. McClure, 1842-46; I. H. Vail, 1846-48; R. Douglass, 1848-52; John B. Fruchey, 1852-56; James H. Vail, 1856-60; William Craybill, 1860-62; John Cunningham, 1862-66; W. W. Cartwright, 1866-70; Louis W. Albright, 1870-74; Henry Sherrard, 1874-78; Josiah Markley, 1878-82; Frank Rothman; Peter Wanne-

macher, 1886-90; David C. Williamson, 1890-92; Frank E. Treece, 1892-94; B. F. Burgess, 1894-98; Nicholas Miller, 1898-1902; Frank E. Treece, 1902-1906; Joseph Zink, 1906-11; Nicholas F. Miller, 1911-15; A. L. Tate, 1915 to the present time.

#### CORONER.

The first coroner, William Turner, was appointed by the court in the spring of 1834, and the first man elected to the office was James Taylor, who was elected in the fall of the same year. The coroners do not see to have left definite records, or at least there does not appear a complete list of these officials in the county records. The following roster is as complete as the records show: William Turner, 1834; James Taylor, 1834-38; Henry Blosser, 1850-54; Chris Raabe, 1866-70; John W. Vaughn, 1870-74; David Waltner, Jr., 1874-78; Joseph Fouriner, 1878-82; H. J. Rader, 1882-86; Jacob F. Leffler, 1886-90; S. F. DeFord, 1890-94; G. A. Light, 1894-98; E. J. Dech, 1898-1900 (re-elected in 1900, but resigned and A. F. Sheibley was appointed to fill out the term); A. F. Sheibley, 1902-06; E. L. Tupper, 1906-10; A. F. Sheibley, 1910 to the present time.

#### SURVEYOR.

F. C. Fitch, 1834-37; E. B. Fitch, 1837-40; Benjamin A. Dunning, 1840-43; Elias Everett, 1843-45; L. E. Hawley, 1845-49; Jacob Blosser, 1849-52; Samuel Parker, 1852-58; John Sheakley, 1858-62; D. S. Crites, 1862-63; C. A. McDowell, 1863-65; H. F. Knowles, 1865-70; Lewis E. Holtz, 1870-76; Aaron Overbeck, 1876-82; Elias W. Dimock, 1882-88; Daniel W. Seitz, 1888-94; James D. Huddle, 1894-1900; O. C. Talbot, 1900-06; John T. Maidlow, 1906-11; J. S. Cartwright, 1911-15; Perry Ford, 1915 to the present time.

#### PROSECUTING ATTORNEY.

The first prosecuting attorney of Putnam county, Amos Evans, received the munificent salary of fifty dollars a year; the present prosecutor is paid a yearly stipend of seventeen hundred dollars. The term was at first two years, then changed to three, and is now two years. Many of the incumbents of this office in the county have become among the strongest members of the local bar. The complete roster follows: Amos Evans, 1834-35; Hamilton Davidson, 1835-37; Francis H. Gillette, 1837-39; Edson Goit, 1839-40; William G. Burge, 1840-41; William L. Rose, 1841-42; A. A. Skinner, 1842-45;

George L. Higgins, 1845-46; James McKenzie, 1846-53; Azariah Budd, 1853-57; James McKenzie, 1857-1859; Azariah Budd, 1859-61; James C. Gribben, 1861-62; David I. Brown, 1862-63; J. R. Linn, 1863-67; James Anderson, 1867-71; Stansberry Sutton, 1871-75; A. V. Watts, 1875-79; James T. Lentzy, 1879-83; William C. G. Krauss, 1883-86; John P. Bailey, 1886-92; Charles Frayer, 1895-95; James P. Leasure, 1895-98; G. W. Risser, 1898-1904; B. A. Unverferth, 1904-09; J. W. Smith, 1909-1913; A. A. Slaybaugh, 1913 to the present time.

#### PROBATE JUDGE.

The office of probate judge was created by the constitution of 1852 and was again recognized by the constitution of 1912. It is interesting to note that a majority of the probate judges of Putnam county have not been lawyers. The first man elected to the position, John Dixon, was a lawyer. Taylor was a veteran of the Civil War and a merchant of Kalida. Kuhns was a real estate agent and held the office for twelve years, the longest of any incumbent. Gordon was a contractor and was recorder of Butler county several terms before coming to Putnam county. Bacon was a druggist; Uphaus, a manufacturer; Thomas, a lawyer; Armstrong, a farmer; Powell and Boehmer, lawyers; Heidlebaugh, a school teacher; Mersman, a manufacturer.

The complete list follows: John Dixon, 1852-55; A. J. Taylor, 1855-61; John Kuhns, 1861-73; John H. Gordon, 1873-79; Samuel S. Bacon, 1879-85; John H. Uphaus, 1885-91; A. Z. Thomas, 1891-97 (died in office and the governor appointed David N. Powell to fill the unexpired term. Powell served from February 15 to October 15, 1897); J. B. Armstrong, 1897 (Mr. Armstrong was elected to fill the unexpired term of Thomas); Amos Boehmer, 1897-1903; A. M. Heidlebaugh, 1903-09; Joseph Mersman, 1909 to the present time.

#### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

The first board of county commissioners was appointed May 5, 1834, by the associate judges. They were Thomas Gray, William Priddy and Samuel Meyers. In October of the same year, an election was held for county commissioners and the following were elected: William Priddy, Benjamin Clevenger and Sheldon Guthrie. The complete list since that time follows:

1835, Isaac McCracken and Joel Wilcox; 1836, Christian Huber; 1837, William Scott; 1838, Christian Huber; 1839, William Scott; 1840, J. D.

Wamsley; 1841, Christian Huber; 1842, James Belford; 1843, W. B. Thrapp; 1844, Nicholas McConnell; 1845, W. B. Thrapp; 1846, Nicholas McConnell; 1847, S. Ramsey; 1848, H. J. Boehmer; 1849, William Kilpatrick; 1850, H. J. Boehmer; 1851, Samuel Prekey; 1852, Henry Kieheffer; 1853, Clark H. Rice; 1854, William Krause; 1855, Henry Kieheffer; 1856, Clark H. Rice; 1857, Robert Stewart; 1858, William Krause; 1859, O. W. Crawfis; 1860, John Diffenbaugh; 1861, Conrad Henry; 1862, Simon Maple; 1863, Conrad Henry; 1864, John Diffenbaugh; 1865, Simon Maple; 1866, Herman Recker; 1867, Conrad Henry and B. H. Lehmkuhle; 1868, Herman Recker; 1869, Michael Bridenbaugh; 1870, B. H. Lehmkuhle; 1871, W. W. Place; 1872, Michael Bridenbaugh; 1873, Charles Wannemacher; 1874, W. W. Place; 1875, William Schaffer; 1876, Charles Wannemacher; 1877, C. F. Mallahan and Jarvis Postlewait (the latter appointed); 1878, William Schaffer and James H. Smith (the latter elected to fill vacancy); 1879, Ferd Unterbrink; 1880, Thomas J. Williams; 1881, John H. George; 1882, Ferd Unterbrink; 1883, William Boehmer; 1884, John F. George; 1885, John T. Mallahan; 1886, William Boehmer; 1887, James H. Smith; 1888, John T. Mallahan; 1889, G. B. Brinkman; 1890, James H. Smith; 1891, Amos Liggett; 1892, G. B. Brinkman, J. T. Mallahan and William Agner (the two last named appointed); 1893, William Agner; 1894, J. W. Poast and D. G. Leffler (the latter appointed); 1895, Samuel Cartwright; 1896, D. G. Leffler; 1897, J. W. Poast; 1898, Samuel Cartwright; 1899, Ignatius Stechschulte; 1900, David Owens; 1901, J. H. Rower; 1902, Ignatius Stechschulte; 1903, D. F. Owens; 1904, J. H. Rower; 1905, B. A. Ruhe; 1906, Jacob Bright; in 1906 a law was passed changing the tenure of office of the county commissioners from one year to two; 1908, B. A. Ruhe, Jacob Bright and Jacob Best; 1910, Jacob Best, John R. Forney and George Herman; 1912, Frank Kracht, John Forney and Jacob Best; 1914, Henry W. Little, Frank Logan and William Schlagbaum.

#### REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS.

Since the organization of the county, in 1834, it has been included in several different congressional districts. It is rather difficult to designate all the men who have represented it, but the list of those representing this district since 1852 have been taken from the official records and are complete to 1915. The counties given are those in which the congressman lived when elected.

1852-54—A. P. Edgerton, Williams.	1890-92—Dennis D. Donovan, Henry.
1854-67—Richard Mott, Lucas.	
1867-68—J. M. Ashley, Lucas.	1892-94—Ferd C. Layton, Auglaize.
1868-70—William Mungen, Hancock.	1894-96—Dennis D. Donovan, Henry.
1870-74—C. N. Lamison, Allen.	
1874-78—A. V. Rice, Putnam.	1896-98—F. B. Dewitt, Paulding.
1878-80—Benjamin LaFever, Shelby.	1898-02—David Meekison, Henry.
1880-85—William D. Hill, Defiance.	1902-04—John S. Snook, Paulding.
1885-86—George E. Seney, Seneca.	1904-06—W. W. Campbell, Henry.
1886-88—M. M. Boothman, Williams.	1906-14—T. T. Ansberry, Defiance.
1888-90—S. S. Yoder, Allen.	1914—N. E. Matthews, Putnam.

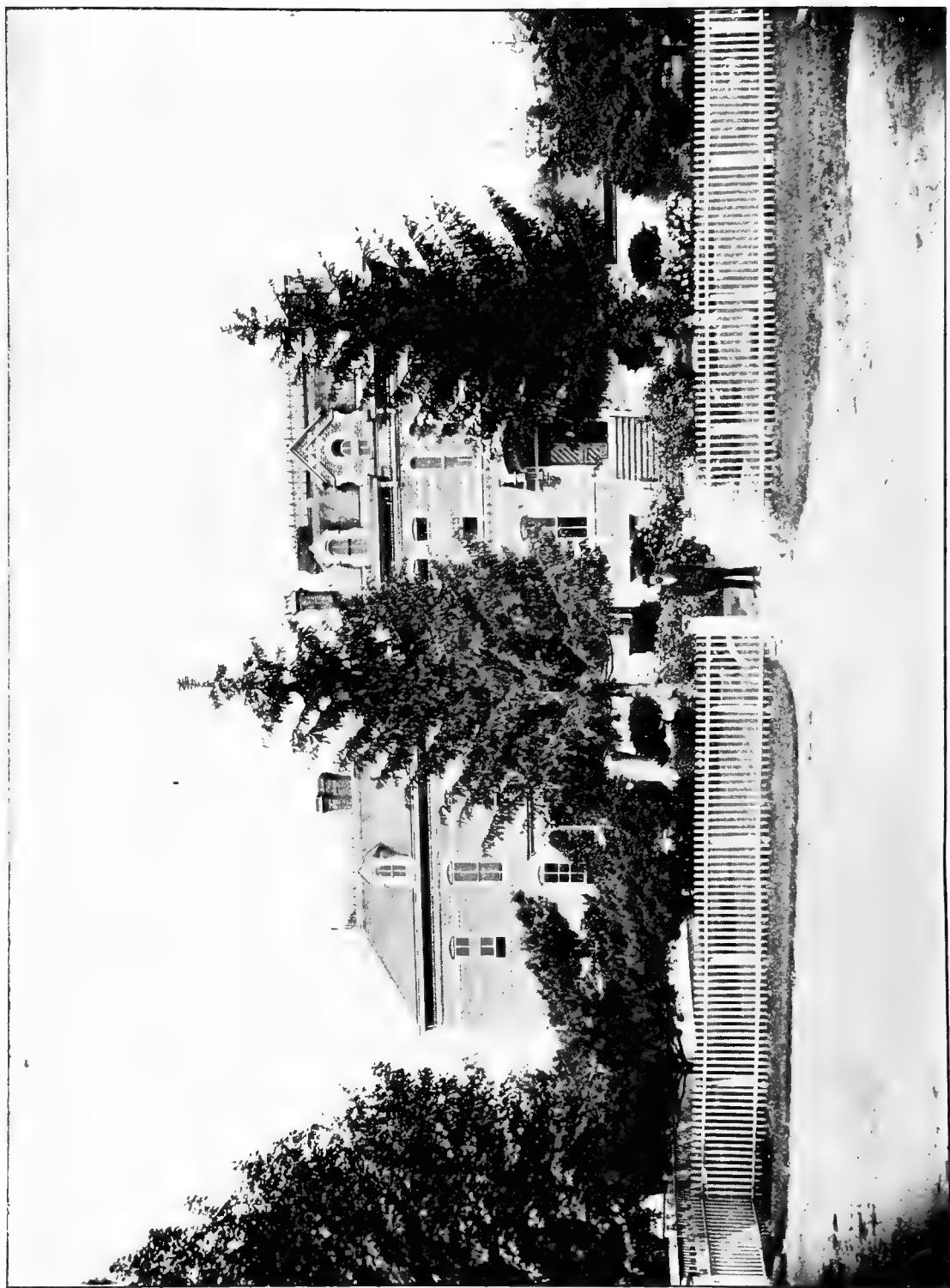
#### REPRESENTATIVES IN STATE LEGISLATURE.

Prior to the year 1847, Putnam county was in the same district with Allen, and, later, was with Henry county. Following are the list of state representatives and their years of service: Nathan S. Landes, 1847-48; Charles B. Edson, 1848-49; Sidney S. Sprague, 1849-50; William H. Snook, 1850-52; James G. Haley, 1852-54; James McKenzie, 1854-56; Henry J. Boehmer, 1856-68; W. J. Jackson, 1858-60; David I. Brown, 1860-62; Benjamin A. High, 1862-64; H. J. Boehmer, 1864-66; S. M. Heller, 1866-69; H. J. Boehmer, 1869-71; S. M. Heller, 1871-72; J. J. Moore, 1872-74; George W. Light, 1876-78; David I. Brown, 1878-82; I. H. Kahle, 1882-86; Amos Boehmer, 1886-90; Milton E. McClure, 1890-94; William F. Hoffman, 1894-98; N. B. Ross, 1898-1902; O. J. O'Donnell, 1902-06; Joseph Justice, 1906-10; John Cavan, 1910, still serving. After 1870 Putnam county elected its own representative. Before this was made a separate district, in 1870, the following were residents of this county: McKenzie, Brown and Boehmer.

#### STATE SENATORS.

From 1834 Putnam county has had representation in the state Legislature and during the eighty-one years which have elapsed since that time it has been included in several districts. It was first included in a district composed of Allen, Mercer, Darke, Shelby, Wood, Miami, Williams, Lucas, Van Wert, Paulding, Henry and Putnam counties. Gradually the number of counties composing the district was reduced and now consists of the five counties of Wood, Hancock, Henry, Fulton and Putnam. This district





PUTNAM COUNTY INFIRMARY.



has had two senators in the Legislature. The complete list of senators follows: James Johnson, 1833-34; John Hunt, 1835-36; Curtis Bates, 1837-38; John Hunt, 1839-40; Jacob Clark, 1841-42; John W. Walters, 1843-44; A. P. Edgerton, 1845-46; Sabirt Scott, 1847-48; James Cunningham, 1849-51; William Mungern, 1852; Samuel H. Steadman, 1854-56; William S. Lunt, 1856-58; Joseph N. Westcott, 1858-60; George Laskey, 1860-62; Charles M. Godfrey, 1862-64; J. C. Hall, 1864-66; A. M. Cory, 1866-72; H. P. Page and D. W. Howard, 1872-74; William H. Tressler and E. D. Potter, 1874-76; P. P. Brown and E. D. Potter, 1876-78; J. B. Steadman and David Joy, 1878-80; John A. Wilkins, 1880-82; J. H. Brigham and J. D. Norton, 1882-84; W. H. McLyman and O. B. Ramey, 1884-86; E. S. Dodd and H. C. Groshner, 1886-88; William L. Carlin and William Geyser, 1888-90; William W. Sutton and John Ryan, 1890-92; T. H. McConica and John C. Rorick, 1894-96; T. C. Harbaugh and John Vogt, 1896-98; William G. Leete and Adam Schafer, 1898-1900; T. C. Harbaugh and George C. Dunham, 1900-02; Calvin P. Godfrey and George C. Dunham, 1902-04; Calvin P. Godfrey and L. H. Austin, 1904-06; R. A. Beatty and Amos Boehmer, 1906-08; Amos Boehmer, 1908-12; E. F. Weiser, 1912-1914; C. C. Cass, 1914 to the present time.

#### COUNTY INFIRMARY.

In 1865 a vote was taken to build a county infirmary, but the proposition was defeated. At the April election, 1866, another vote was taken and carried by eight hundred and six majority, only one hundred and fifty-one votes being cast against the measure.

In 1869, John Kern, Isaac Vail and Presley Corron were appointed and constituted the first board of directors. Those succeeding and years of service are as follows: 1869, Jessie Joseph, to fill vacancy; 1869, Samuel Kline; 1871, Isaac Vail; 1872, Jessie Joseph; 1872, Herman Recker, to fill vacancy; 1873, Herman Recker; 1874, Jacob S. Williams; 1875, Lewis N. Crawfis; 1876, Eli Stevic; 1877, Jacob S. Williams; 1878, Lewis N. Crawfis; 1879, Eli Stevic; 1880, Henry Recker; 1881, Joseph Faber; 1882, Kemp Samsal; 1883, Henry Recker; 1884, Joseph Faber; 1885, Kemp Samsal; 1886, Joseph Miller; 1887, J. R. Rimer; 1888, R. E. Gilbert; 1889, Joseph Miller; 1890, J. R. Rimer; 1891, R. E. Gilbert; 1892, W. F. Sherman; 1893, James Williams; 1894, J. W. Summers; 1895, W. F. Sherman; 1896, James Williams; 1897, J. W. Summers; 1898, A. H. Wingate, to fill vacancy; 1898,

A. H. Wingate; 1899, J. B. Uphaus; 1900, J. M. Shank; 1901, J. W. Pfister; 1902, J. B. Uphaus; 1903, J. M. Shank; 1904, J. W. Pfister; 1905, D. W. Light; 1906, James H. Hunt, appointed; 1906, James H. Hunt; 1908, James H. Hunt; 1908, D. W. Light; 1908, Henry J. Lammers; 1910, Henry S. Baxter; 1910, W. T. Elter; 1910, Henry J. Lammers. The board of infirmity directors ceased to exist in 1910, by an act of the Legislature passed in that year.

#### SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE COUNTY INFIRMARY.

1869-71, Jacob S. Williams; 1871-75, Samuel McDowell; 1875-85, William R. Sherrard; 1885-92, C. A. McDowell; 1892-1900, James Ridge; 1900-02, John E. Nemire; 1902-15, W. P. Frantz.

After the board ceased to exist, the superintendent was appointed by the county commissioners. W. P. Frantz was the first man appointed by the commissioners and is still serving in that capacity.

#### TAX COMMISSIONERS.

The Legislature of 1912-14 enacted a law creating the office of deputy tax commissioner. Joseph Kersting was appointed by the commissioners to fill this office for Putnam county. He served for nearly two years, when he was superseded by R. B. Layton. The law has been decentralized and the duties of the deputy tax commissioner transferred to the county commissioners.

## CHAPTER VI.

### TOWNSHIP SETTLEMENT AND ORGANIZATION.

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#### BLANCHARD TOWNSHIP.

Blanchard township was organized in 1833, the year before Putnam county was organized, and at that time included the territory now in Van Buren, Riley, Blanchard and Richland townships. Richland township and the south tier of sections of Riley township were detached from Putnam county in 1848 and added to Allen county. When Blanchard township was organized, in 1833, it was a part of Williams county and the county seat was then located at Fort Defiance. The order creating the township is found in the commissioners' records of Williams county.

As far as known, there were only eight voters in the township at the time it began its career, although after the organization of the township the settlers began to come in rapidly. Otho Crawfis and his wife, Sarah Agner, had the honor of being the first settlers in this extensive township. They were natives of Fairfield county, Ohio, and settled in Putnam county on October 17, 1831. The year following, came Samuel Hall, Joseph Hickerson and H. M. Crawfis. In 1833 the population was increased by the families of Abraham Hardin, Hezekiah Bonham, William Prichett, Calvin and Alexander Morehead. The year 1834 saw a still larger number of families casting their fortunes with the pioneers of this township. In this year came William Patrick, Henry Pope, Joseph Wade, Samuel Hickerson, Joseph Bowen, George Shoemaker, Thomas McClure, Andrew McClure and Charles Guysinger. The following year brought in the families of George Stewart, George Bacon, Azariah Smith and John Stewart.

Unfortunately, the early records of Blanchard township were burned many years ago and definite data on its early history is hard to obtain. It is known that the first election was held at the home of Otho W. Crawfis, Sr., and that the following officers were elected: Samuel Hall, Abraham Hardin and Otho W. Crawfis, Sr., trustees; Joseph Hickerson, clerk; Otho W. Crawfis, Sr., justice of the peace. Hickerson was selected by the voters to take the election returns to Defiance, and, while in the county seat, he

was sworn in as clerk. Upon his return he swore the other officers in and then the new county was ready for business.

An interesting story is told of Crawfis, who had been elected justice of the peace, and the story has the unusual advantage of being true. When he received his commission as justice of the peace for Blanchard township, Williams county, from Defiance, signed by Governor Lucas, he returned it, thinking that he lived in Putnam county. Within a short time the commission was returned to him with the official information that it was correct and that Putnam county had not yet been formally organized.

#### FIRST EVENTS.

Rev. Elam Day, a Methodist, preached the first sermon in the township, at the home of Samuel Hall, in the fall of 1832. Martin Hickerson, born in 1833, a son of Joseph Hickerson, was the first white child born in the township. The first death was that of a Miss Killpatrick, and it occurred the same year. The year 1833 also witnessed the first marriage, that of Samuel Myers and Margaret Hardin, the wedding taking place on Christmas day. The first road was the Findlay-Defiance road, and was surveyed through the township in the early part of the thirties.

Gilboa, the first town, was laid out in 1837 by Elisha Stout, who also built the first grist-mill in the township. The first election for township trustees was held in Gilboa, November 19, 1852. Wolves were plentiful in this part of the county, also deer, wild turkeys and other game could be seen. The first school in the township was taught by James Wade. The school house was built of logs, with hewed benches for seats and wide boards nailed against the wall for writing desks. It was heated by a fireplace made of mortar and sticks. Reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic were the only branches taught. Mr. Wade was followed, in order, by Eliza Emmons, Emeline Hubbard, William Pierman, Mrs. Susan McClish, Mary Cartwright, James Agner, Lydia Shelby, Jane McDowell, Luella Agner, Laura Higginbotham and Nettie Diviney.

#### PRESENT TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS.

Justice of the peace, A. V. Logan, of Gilboa; trustees, Hugh Harris and L. A. Pitney, of Gilboa, and John Crawfis, of Leipsic; clerk, W. H. Tobias, of Gilboa; treasurer, W. B. Gierhart, of Gilboa; constables, Henry Bowman and Richard McClure, of Gilboa.

## GILBOA.

Gilboa, as was stated before, was laid out in 1837. Nelson McCallister built the first frame house in the village, but it was only a short time until the town began to grow. About the year 1839, a tavern was opened by Benjamin Stewart and Edward Mercer started a general store. Blacksmiths, mechanics and men of different trades began to settle here and it became a thriving village.

It is characteristic that Gilboa had the most rapid growth of any town in the county. From 1840 to the early fifties it was classed as the most thriving town in the county. At the time the early surveys were made, in 1852, for the Dayton & Michigan railroad, the citizens of Gilboa made an active and persistent contest with Findlay and Ottawa for the location of that road through their town; they failed in their efforts, and this was the first blow which the town suffered.

Among the earlier prominent and active citizens of this village were: Matthew Chambers, Sr., who built the brick hotel; Col. M. C. Ewing, who owned what was then the largest general store in the county; Dr. T. E. Paul, who settled here in the practice of medicine in 1845; William McClure, who also kept a tavern and later became county treasurer; Simon Maple, merchant, who later became county commissioner; Stansbury Sutton, who kept a general store until he took up the duties of prosecuting attorney and, later, county treasurer; Dr. Lyman W. Moe, who took up the practice of medicine in 1847.

In 1848 an epidemic of cholera almost decimated the village. Early settlers relate the horrible sufferings and deaths of the victims of this devastating disease. For a time it seemed as though the entire village would be wiped out, but its ravages were finally checked, although the effects of this dreaded disease were felt for some time.

The town was incorporated by an act of the Legislature in 1848 and has retained its corporate life ever since. The Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western railroad was built through its limits in 1888, and gave an impetus to the growth of the town and its business, evidenced by the construction of new business buildings and residences.

Situated as it is, in the center of what was the earliest settled, and still among the best agricultural, portions of the county, surrounded by splendid farms, it has always kept a good trade, and even in the darkest years, after its failure to secure the Dayton & Michigan road, and, later, the epidemic

of cholera, it has still retained its progressive air. It has not progressed as rapidly in the past twenty years as formerly, but, owing to its early bearing, it has retained its place as an agricultural center.

Its business interests at present consist of an up-to-date bank, drain-tile plant, elevator and business houses which deal in all the necessities which the farmers require. It has a very modern high school building and is one of the nine educational centers of the county.

The present officers are: Mayor, P. C. Stateler; clerk, J. G. Knepper; treasurer, P. C. Davis; marshal, Frank Wood; councilmen, O. V. Todd, W. B. Gierhart, J. M. Reed, John Moffit, William Clymer and Banner Perkins. The population of Gilboa in 1915 was three hundred and forty-five.

#### M'CULLOUGHVILLE.

McCulloughville, located on the Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western railroad, was platted in 1888 by L. E. Holtz, civil engineer, for D. U. McCullough. This town was the site of Crawfis College and a postoffice was established here for the convenience of the college and the surrounding country. But this was later served by a mail route and the town has ceased to exist.

#### LIVINGSTON.

Livingston bears the distinction of being one of the few "paper towns" of the county. It was laid out, but never materialized.

Blanchard has within its boundaries two institutions which will be dealt with in another chapter, the county infirmary and Crawfis College.

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#### GREENSBURG TOWNSHIP.

Greensburg township was created by the county commissioners within a year after the county was formally organized in 1834. Henry Wing, the first settler, named the township, although history does not record why he chose the name. Wing built a rude log cabin and located here with his family as early as 1825, but he had been in the township for several years prior to that date. Just when he came to the state of Ohio is not known, but he is found at the mouth of the Blanchard river in 1814 guarding supplies for the army. The War of 1812 was not yet closed and he seems to have taken some part in that struggle. In 1819 Wing was helping Capt. James

W. Riley to survey in this part of Ohio, and he continued with the surveyor's gang until 1822. This representative old pioneer was killed in 1844 by a falling tree, at the time of the opening of the Ottawa and Defiance road through Putnam county. In 1820 Henry Leaf located his family in section 10, on the Blanchard river, and in 1824 David Murphy, with his family, came down the Blanchard river from Fort Findlay. His was one of the first permanent white families in the county and his wife was the first person buried in the cemetery at Kalida.

In 1832 came Isaac Owens and John Myers, followed, in the succeeding year, by Levi Grove, Nutter Powell, Frederick Brower and John F. Kahle. The latter was the first foreigner in the county to take out naturalization papers. The year 1834 brought in Abraham Crow, Christian Bear, Nicholas Prynne and Alexander Berryhill. In 1835 Joshua Powell, William Bell, James Crow, William Phillips and John Neill were added to the slowly-growing population.

That the township was of slow growth is shown by the fact that only eight votes were cast at the first election in April, 1835. These eight voters selected the following officials: William Bell, Abraham Crow and Joshua Powell, trustees; Frederick Brower, clerk; Nutter Powell, treasurer; Frederick Brower, justice of the peace.

Organized with an area of thirty-six square miles, the township was decreased in 1848 by having the south tier of sections detached and added to Union township. In common with most of the townships of the county, the land in Greensburg was very swampy and it was many years after the township was organized before artificial drainage brought much of its area under cultivation. At the present time no township in the county can boast of better farms and the hundreds of contented and independent farmers of the township bespeak the prosperity which has come to this section of the county.

#### TOWNS.

Greensburg township has no equal in the county in the way of towns, there being four within her limits, namely: Avis, Cuba, Croswell and Dornington. If any of the four have ever been platted the officials failed to record the plats. Avis is located on the Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western railroad. With a large stave mill to aid the growth of this village it bid fair to become a thriving town, but the mill being destroyed by fire and never replaced, the hopes for a larger village were shattered. Its business comprises one elevator, a general store and stock yards. Cuba is situated in

the northern part of the township, on the Blanchard river. Croswell is a railroad stop west of Avis on the same railroad. Dornington is located on the Ohio Electric and also the Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western railroad.

#### TOWNSHIP OFFICERS.

The following are the present officers of Greensburg township: Justice of the peace, A. F. Steiner; trustees, C. W. Beard, A. C. Korte, A. G. Verhoff; clerk, William Siebeneck; treasurer, H. C. Schroeder; constable, J. B. Fappe.

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#### JACKSON TOWNSHIP.

Jackson township lies between Perry and Jennings townships, on the north and south, and Union and Monterey, on the east and west. It was originally laid out six miles square, although it was later decreased to twenty sections. In 1848 its area was increased to twenty-six sections by the addition of six sections taken from Perry township. The Auglaize river runs through the township from south to north and affords ample natural drainage. Within the past few years extensive systems of artificial drainage have been put into operation, with the result that now nearly all of the township has been brought under cultivation.

The records of the township covering the early years of its history were destroyed by fire many years ago and this renders it impossible to write the complete history of the township. The date of the first election and the first officers elected are unknown, but it is certain that the organization of the township dates from the first half of the thirties. The first officers of whom any record has been found are as follows: Thaddeus Harris, justice of the peace, and William H. Harris, constable.

Elias Wallen, who settled in the township in 1822, seems to have been the first permanent settler. Rufus Carey and John Harter came with their families the following year, entered land and started to make homes in the wilderness. Owing to the extreme swampiness of the township, the settlers came in very slowly for several years. Thaddeus Harris (1825) and Thomas Carder (1830) were all who came to the township before 1833. In the latter year, Phillip, Joseph and George Comer, Edward Ladd and John Heddrick located along the Auglaize river.

The following are the present officers of Jackson township: Justices



of the peace, H. Frank Rower and George W. Roose; trustees, Philip Stirn, John Kehres, G. Kimmerle; clerk, Henry Biedenharn; treasurer, F. J. Recker; constable, Philip A. Rower.

Jackson township, although ranking among the best townships in the county, does not have any large towns within its limits. Muntana is situated on the Cloverleaf railroad, three miles south of Cloverdale. It was surveyed and platted in 1881 by George Skinner, surveyor for George H. Calkins. It bears the distinction of being the first town laid out in this township. Huntstown is another town of about the same strength as Muntana and situated just two miles north of it. Huntstown was platted and laid out in 1883 by Samuel Starkey and also lies on the Clover Leaf railroad. Douglas is the third town in the township and finishes the list. This town was never platted, at least no record can be found in the plat book, and at present is the site for the Odenweller Milling Company. These towns, although small, draw from the rich farming community in this county and in time may prove quite important commercial centers.

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#### JENNINGS TOWNSHIP.

Jennings township also suffered in the donation of land to Allen county, just as Sugar Creek did. The south half of the township was cut off and two tiers of sections were added on the north from Jackson township, but three sections were cut off the west side and added to Monterey, thus the township now embraces twenty-eight sections.

Samuel Washburn was the first settler to purchase land and locate here. Washburn came in 1825 or 1826 and purchased two farms, which he cleared and sold to Isaiah Clawson and William Cochran in 1827 or 1828. About the year 1828, James Thatcher and William Scott cast their lot with the other early settlers in this township. A few others came in about this time and settled on the banks of the Auglaize river.

The first white child born in Jennings township was Thomas Washburn, on August 9, 1828. John and James Cochran were the next.

In 1832 or 1833 the township took on a temporary organization. William Cochran served as the first justice of the peace. It is difficult to get the true history of the township or the date of the permanent organization, as the early records were destroyed. In 1833 several families came over from Germany and took up their permanent residence here; among these were John Disher, Henry Wellman, C. Raabe, Henry Raabe and John

Raabe. In the following year H. J. Boehmer, V. D. Emse, George Calvage, Mrs. Calvage and several others settled here. The returns show that at the fall election in 1834 there were only seventeen votes cast in the township.

Colonel Jennings was the commandant at the fort, a small stockade built on the west bank of the Auglaize river, which served as a military post in the war of 1812. An incident concerning this post follows: Colonel Jennings sent out a detachment of troops under Capt. William D. Jones on a foraging expedition to the Indian towns of Upper and Lower Tawa on the Blanchard river. The detachment consisted of the Captain, Knowles Shaw, Aaron Howard, James Howard, Henry and Thomas Montgomery. They came in from the west and crossed the river near the Glandorf bridge. This was in August, 1813 or 1814. They found the towns deserted and, after feasting on roasting ears, chickens and fat hogs for a week, they burned the Indian towns and destroyed the growing crops before they returned to the fort. Colonel Jennings left his name as a monument to the township and also the town.

The Jennings township officials are as follows: Justices of the peace, J. H. Hunt and Cornelius Kortier; trustees, Barney Bruskotter, William Von Sassan and Charles Ricker; clerk, Ferd Heising; treasurer, Charles H. Raabe; constable, Felix Calvelage; ditch supervisor, James Brackman.

#### FT. JENNINGS.

Ft. Jennings is one of the oldest settlements in northern Ohio, where the white man made a permanent home in the wilderness. In 1812 Colonel Jennings erected a stockade, consisting of a line of posts set in the earth on a high and favorable bend of the Auglaize river, and it was from this stockade that the present village received its name. Settled at a time when there was no railroad, no canal, no stores, when by far the greater part of Ohio was one vast wilderness, the present generation can hardly realize the hardships and privations which these early settlers had to undergo.

The earliest industry was the manufacture of corn whiskey, but the construction of the canal drained the swamps and made this one of the richest corn-producing sections in northern Ohio.

The town of Ft. Jennings was platted in 1847 and incorporated in 1881. The Clover Leaf railroad was built through the town in 1876 and this gave the farmers a ready outlet for their products to the chief markets of the country.

In 1852 Christian Raabe founded the first general store and this was

followed soon after by a saw-mill, elevator, a tile mill, a good music store, two hotels and stores representing all the different lines of merchandise.

The streets of the town are sewerred and piked, and, with the industry and thrift of the farmers, she enjoys a proud place among the most progressive towns of the county.

The corporation officers of Ft. Jennings are as follows: Mayor, F. H. Geier; clerk, Ferd Heising; treasurer, Frank Geier; marshal, A. B. Miehl; councilmen, William Boehmer, Basney Wieging, Louis Brockman, Ferd Bertling, Frank Kohorst, Felix Calvelage.

The population of the town in 1910 was three hundred and thirty-six.

#### RUSHMORE.

Rushmore is situated on the Northern Ohio railroad and the southwestern part of Jennings township. It is surrounded by rich farming lands and bids fair to become a thriving little village. It has a church and school building for the convenience of its patrons.

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#### LIBERTY TOWNSHIP.

Liberty township was organized in April, 1837. The first settler to locate here was Alexander Montooth, in 1835. Later in the same year, Charles Hofstetter, Nicholas and J. R. McConnell, Samuel James, James and John Irvin, John Krebs and O. C. Pomeroy took up their permanent residence in this township. H. S. Ramsey, Jacob Sigler, Henry Knopp, James Woodell and Robert Lowry came a short time later and aided in the early settlement and township organization.

At the first election, Nicholas McConnell was chosen justice of the peace, and J. R. McConnell was elected constable. The early records have been lost and a full list of the first township officers cannot be given.

The land in Liberty township was originally very swampy and this made it unhealthy. The first settlements, for this reason, were made on what was then called the Ridge, which was a slightly elevated strip of land. The growth of this township was very slow at first, as a great part of the land was unfit for cultivation. The swamps and ponds of the township were drained in 1860 and the land has been tilled, and in this way brought under cultivation. After the swamps were drained the sickness of this locality was greatly decreased and it became a very desirable habitation.

The first town was laid out in 1845 by the late Judge Palmer and was called Medary. Judge Palmer kept the first store in the town and erected a combination grist- and saw-mill, which was quite a curiosity to the early settlers. The building was a frame structure, with the grist-mill above and the saw-mill below. The site of this once thriving village is now covered with fields of waving corn.

The present officers of Liberty township are: Justices of the peace, John Farley, of Leipsic; Louis Lammers and Mack Shaffer, of West Leipsic; trustees, B. I. Stechschulte, J. M. Smith and Peter Schey, of West Leipsic; clerk, Joseph Lammers, of West Leipsic; treasurer, P. H. Schey, of West Leipsic; constables, Jefferson Ladd and Herb Dukes, of West Leipsic.

#### WEST LEIPSIC.

West Leipsic was laid out and platted in 1852. In the year 1850 John W. Peckenpaugh purchased the land where the village of West Leipsic now stands and had the first survey of twenty lots made, by Samuel Parker, county surveyor. A second and third survey was made in the following years, 1853-54, and completed the platting of all the lands now included in the town lying north of the Nickel Plate railroad.

The first house built in the village was erected by John Shakely in 1850 and was known as the old Shakely house for a number of years. It was long used as a hotel and drug store.

From 1850 to 1855 the first settlers of the town came in, these including the following: J. J. Lowry, who kept the first store in the town and, later, was elected the first justice of the peace; John Dehnert was the first blacksmith; Joseph Faber, first wagon maker; George Haskell, first cooper, and Dr. Samuel Emery was the first physician. The first white child born in the town was Louisa M. Lowry, daughter of J. J. Lowry, born on September 29, 1852. Later, Miss Lowry became the wife of Doctor Emery, one of the leading physicians of the county.

The town was incorporated in 1882 with the following officials: R. Haskell, mayor; W. J. White, clerk; M. L. Pritchard, marshal; Thomas James, treasurer. The present officers are: Mayor, S. M. Tilbrook; clerk, Earl J. Shaffer; treasurer, M. L. Pritchard; marshal, Joseph E. Miller; councilmen, F. M. Bennett, J. I. Smith; W. J. Wooddell, Solomon Closè; J. A. Montooth, Mack Shaffer.

The population in 1910 was two hundred and fifty-three.

Elm Center is another small hamlet in this township, being but a rail-





CONTINENTAL TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.



CONTINENTAL IN 1914.

road station on the Nickel Plate road. A similar village is Prentiss, a railroad station on the Dayton, Toledo & Ironton road.

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MONROE TOWNSHIP.

Monroe is next to the youngest township in the county, being second only to Palmer. Cut off from Perry township in 1852, it has had a slow, but steady, growth since it started on its independent career. Like many other townships, its settlement was retarded on account of the general swampiness of its soil, and it was not until 1849 that its first permanent settler, Adam Perrin, made his appearance here. He seemed to have the whole township to himself for two years, or at least there is no record of any others until 1851, when John Grant risked his fortunes in the malaria-ridden district. In the same and following years appeared John and Eli Fickle, Hiram Madden, William Moore, D. D. Barnes, James Early, Samuel Birge, D. D. Murphy and Solomon McCullough.

At the first election, on April 5, 1852, there were only twelve votes cast and six of these electors were chosen to various offices, as follows: William Moore, John and Eli Fickle, trustees; James Early, clerk; John Grant, treasurer; Solomon McCullough, supervisor. At that time the township consisted of one road and one school district. The first teacher was George Krites, who taught in a small cabin on section 5.

The following are township officers at the present time: Justices of the peace, F. E. Treece, and E. L. Hartman; trustees, Frank Hall, J. W. Ernst and F. E. Treece, all of Continental; clerk, F. E. Moore, of Continental; treasurer, R. W. Kissell, of Continental; constables, M. G. Pease and Daniel Noe, of Continental; ditch supervisor, J. L. Carroll, of North Creek.

HARTSBURG.

Continental is the chief town in Monroe township, but its history and growth will be dealt with in another chapter. Lying due west of Continental three miles on the Nickel Plate railroad is a small hamlet which needs honorable mention. This aforesaid town is Hartsburg. The date of the platting of this village, if it was ever platted, cannot be ascertained. At present Hartsburg has one church and a school building. It is a stop on the Nickel Plate railroad.

## WISTERMAN.

Wisterman is also a small hamlet in this township. It was platted in 1883 by E. W. Dimock, for W. S. Daly, E. R. Eastman and Jane James, the proprietors. This town failed to materialize to any great extent and at present is merely a stop on the Toledo, St. Louis & Western railroad. Rice was once a postoffice for the convenience of country people, but at present is only an interurban stop.

Continental, first called Marice City, was laid out and platted on March 23, 1888, by George Skinner for Gen. A. V. Rice. It was named in honor of the General's daughter, Mary Rice. At the time when the Nickel Plate railroad was constructed through Putnam county the land in the southeastern part of Monroe township was one vast body of unbroken wilderness and swamp. The Rice road improvements were constructed in 1865 through the present site of Marice City and made this land productive and, with the intersection of two railroads, a very desirable location for a town. In 1888 the Buckeye Stave Company erected their stave factory on their addition which they had laid out the same year (James Belford, surveyor). In the same year Dr. B. D. Sparling employed A. Overbeck to lay out and plat his first addition. In 1887 D. W. Seitz laid out and platted an addition for Gen. A. V. Rice, and the following year the same surveyor platted a second addition for Dr. B. D. Sparling. Mr. Seitz also platted a second addition for the Buckeye Stave Company, in 1890, and the same year sub-divided outlot No. 1 of Rice's addition, for the district assessor, H. B. Pierce. In 1895 Mr. Seitz also platted a sub-division for W. H. Miller.

The first store was opened up in Marice City by James Sullivan. This was followed, soon afterward, by a general store by the Buckeye Stave Company, but was later purchased by H. B. Rose and Alvin Poe. James Bell built his present store room and opened up a general store in 1887. Others followed soon afterward. The town was incorporated March 22, 1888, with the following officers: Polk Berbage, mayor; C. G. Ballman, clerk; James Bell, treasurer; C. S. Parish, marshal; W. B. Miller, John Hutchison, Hiram Dellinger, George Hahn, Silas Colvin and John Shamberger, councilmen. At the time when the town was incorporated several of the citizens tried to get the name changed to Continental, but this was not accomplished until April 17, 1899, at the February term of court.

Continental has been settled by business men who are ever striving for the betterment of the town. New bank buildings and business houses have



been constructed, which give the town its present prosperous and enterprising air. Its business interests consist of an elevator and milling company, the Continental and the Farmers bank, the Cloverleaf hotel, the Sanitary grocery, T. Hauck & Company's drug store, general stores, produce dealers, and merchants who cater to the wants of the town and country people.

The present population of the town is more than one thousand. The present officers are: Mayor, H. C. Parrett; clerk, S. N. Aller; treasurer, C. B. Shinabery; marshal, M. G. Pease; councilmen, W. H. Wright, W. C. Veach, Alonzo Spitler, John Minch, B. A. Manor and D. F. Owens; trustees of public affairs, L. B. Guy, William Saegers and L. P. Crawfis.

#### MONTEREY TOWNSHIP.

The year 1848 witnessed some very marked changes in the territorial limits of Putnam county. In this year Auglaize county was organized by cutting off the southern part of Allen, which joins Putnam on the south. In order to equalize matters, a strip was detached from the southern part of Putnam and added to Allen—seven tiers of sections being detached from Riley township, six tiers from Pleasant (known as Monroe township), three tiers from Sugar Creek and a similar amount from Jennings. This took one hundred and fourteen sections from Putnam county, but the kind-hearted Legislature compensated Putnam by adding eighteen sections taken from Van Wert county. This strip, six by three miles, lies immediately west of Jackson township and was organized as Monterey township in 1849. At the same time, five sections were detached from Jackson township and added to Monterey.

This township was settled largely by Germans and is one of the strongest Catholic township in the county. Henry Schroeder and Henry Upland, who came with their families in 1845, were the first permanent settlers. They were followed by Joseph Gruver (1846) and John Livingston, Jonas Dash, Conrad Henry and Bernard Esch (1847). Matthias Schroeder came in 1849.

The first election, on January 19, 1850, at the house of Joseph Gruver, resulted in the selection of the following officials: Bernard Esch, Henry Schroeder and Joseph Gruver, trustees; Jonas Dash, clerk. The scarcity of population may be understood when it is known that only eleven votes were cast at this first election. When the board of trustees met, on March 7, 1850, they proceeded to organize the township into two road and two school districts.

The Monterey township officials at present are: Justices of the peace, George Altenberger and J. H. Wannemacher; trustees, Frank W. Ruen, Martin Miller, and James Weber; clerk, Frank Kromer; treasurer, Max Winkelman; constable, Jacob P. Studer.

#### OTTOVILLE.

There is only one town in Monterey township, Ottoville. The platting of Ottoville has had some marked and varied changes, as shown by the records for those acts. In 1845, Elias Everett, county surveyor, platted for John Otto Bredeick a parcel of land in the northeast corner of section 30. This survey was abandoned, however, and the land was again surveyed by Charles Wannemacher in 1873.

The present site of Ottoville, by way of explanation, is platted in the corner of four sections, namely, sections 24, 25, 19 and 30. The numbering is due to the fact that the township was changed since the original survey.

In 1863 Samuel Parker, county surveyor, laid out that part of the original town plot lying in section 19 for Christ Martin. This survey has been changed somewhat since that time. In 1865 F. J. Lye, with the services of George Skinner, surveyor, laid out an addition west of the canal in section 30. In 1874 Peter Wannemacher laid out an addition to Ottoville in section 25 and in 1883 Aaron Overbeck, surveyor, at the instance of Richard Gilmour, bishop of Cleveland, Ohio, resurveyed all that part of the town originally laid out in section 19. The same survey platted an addition in section 19 for Max Winkelman during the year 1892. In 1894 Peter Wannemacher had another addition platted by D. W. Seitz, surveyor.

The town was incorporated in 1890, with Joseph Wannemacher, mayor; J. C. Wannemacher, clerk; John Branderhoff, marshal; Matt Schullien, treasurer; V. H. Otte, Peter Wannemacher, B. Wannemacher, J. B. Mersman, J. J. Miller and William Gasser, councilmen.

This village is the center of a very prosperous farming community; situated on all sides are the well-tilled farms of the sturdy, industrious Catholics who make up this settlement. This is the home of St. Mary's Immaculate Conception church, one of the most beautiful churches in this part of the state. The business interests of the town have always assisted in every material way for the growth of the town and unison among its early settlers was their strong characteristic.

Ottoville is accommodated with a good bank, an up-to-date flouring-mill, stores and merchants whose goods are the very best. The town also

has paved streets and an excellent school system. The population in 1910 was four hundred and seventy-seven, but has increased since that time.

The officers at present are: Mayor, J. C. Wannemacher; clerk, Frank Kromer; treasurer, Joseph P. Hurst; marshal, William Grenlich; councilmen, George Wannemacher, James Otte, Alph Bertling, W. T. Geier, John Van Oss, Alex Odenweller; trustees of public affairs, George Miehl, Ed Odenweller and J. J. Miller.

#### ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER IN OTTOVILLE.

In the fall of 1914, the town of Ottoville completed arrangements with the Electric Light and Power Company, of Delphos, Ohio, whereby the latter company agreed to furnish electric current for Ottoville at a definite rate. Delphos brought the current to the corporation line of Ottoville and then the latter wired it to its consumers in the town. The town has spent five thousand dollars in wiring, poles, meters, transformers, etc., and, although the first year has not yet passed, Ottoville already has one hundred and one consumers of light service and two consumers of power. The town operates twenty-five incandescent street lights, ranging in power from one hundred to two hundred and fifty kilowatts.

Ottoville guaranteed the Delphos company a minimum of fifty dollars a month for the first six months and since then has been on a rate of one hundred dollars a month. The Ottoville consumers have a minimum rate of fifty cents a month and a rate of ten cents a kilowatt. The profits of the town for the first six months enabled it to pay for its street lighting, and as time goes on the town hopes to make a still greater profit. The service has proven satisfactory in every respect and the example of Ottoville will doubtless soon be followed by other towns in the county. The local management of the utility is vested in the board of public affairs, consisting of J. J. Miller, George Miehl and Edward Odenweller. The clerk of the board is Frank Kramer, who acts as the manager and has general control of the installation of lights and the making of collections.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT OF OTTOVILLE.

Ottoville is fortunately located in regard to a bountiful supply of water, being at the crossing of the Little Auglaize and the canal. With a twenty-horse-power gasoline pumping engine, water can be thrown in two streams

over any and all buildings in the town from either the river or the canal. In addition, the town has a hand-pump which requires thirty men to operate, but, since the installation of the gasoline engine, this is necessary only in extreme cases. The town owns fifteen hundred feet of two and a half inch hose, which is amply sufficient to carry water to any part of the town. It is interesting to note that in the whole history of the town there has never been more than one building burned down at one time. In fact, there have been no serious fires in the town for the past five years. There is a voluntary fire company of fifteen members, who receive twenty-five cents for attendance upon meetings, the number of meetings being limited to twenty-one a year. The members of the company are exempt from road tax, but receive no extra compensation for attendance at a fire. The present fire chief is Frank Kramer. Joseph P. Wurst is secretary and Joseph Vanoss is treasurer of the fire company.

#### BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS OF OTTOVILLE.

- Automobiles—Alfred Huysman.
- Bank—Ottoville Banking Company.
- Barber—Theodore Kramer.
- Blacksmiths—John Vanoss, John Zahn & Albert Schneider.
- Carpenters—John Wurst, Henry Ruen, L. L. Red.
- Cement Contractor—Frank Grubenhoff.
- Dentist—W. T. Morgan.
- Drayman—Martin Bendele.
- Druggist—W. T. Remlinger.
- Elevator—Benjamin Wannemacher & Sons.
- Flour Manufacturer—E. L. Odenweller.
- Furniture—John Lauer.
- General Stores—J. J. Miller Company, F. F. Vincke.
- Hardware—Charles Wannemacher's Sons, George Wannemacher & Company.
- Hotel—G. E. Otte.
- Ice Dealers—Berkling & King.
- Jeweler—C. B. Wannemacher.
- Justice of the Peace—George Altenburger.
- Livery—Bendele & Miller.
- Lumber and Building Supplies—Schulien & Roth.
- Loans and Real Estate—George Altenburg.

Meat Market—Berkling & King.  
Millinery—Mrs. Frances Dehe, Mrs. Matthew Kramer.  
Musical Instruments—C. B. Wannemacher, W. T. Remlinger.  
Physician—J. F. Ockuley.  
Poultry Dealer—Griffis Produce Company.  
Photographer—Harry Niedecken.  
Painters and Paper Hangers—Fred Bohn, Charles Sellet.  
Restaurants—Albert Lane, Rayman Brothers.  
Saloons—G. H. Otte, Nicholas Bedink.  
Stock Buyers—Conrad Fecker, Plesher & Brickner.  
Shoe Cobblers—W. T. Geier, Landing Rieger.  
Stone Crusher—Nicholas Lauer.  
Stone, Brick and Cement Workers—Peter Smith, J. F. Pittner.  
Telephone—Jacob Studer, manager.  
Tile Manufacturer—George Miller.  
Tinner—George Rieger.  
Veterinary—John Dietrich.

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## OTTAWA TOWNSHIP.

Ottawa township was organized in March, 1835, with a limited number of people who had settled in the township during the previous two years. One of the first white settlers in the township was George Agner, who came here in the year 1832 and, the following year, settled on a farm east of Ottawa. William Galbreath settled on the farm adjoining Ottawa in the same year. Mr. Galbreath served in the War of 1812 and was present at the battle of Fort Meigs. William and Jonathan Y. Sackett, Henry Crawfis, Meridith Parish, Henry Ridenour, James Parish and Christian Huber are numbered with the pioneers of this township.

The first election for township officers was held at Michael Row's tavern, April 6, 1835. At this election the following officers were elected: George Agner, William Galbreath and Joseph Adgate, trustees; Michael Row, treasurer; William Sackett, clerk; William Bowman, constable; Michael Row and William Galbreath, supervisors; Meridith Parish and Samuel Clark, overseers of the poor; Michael Row and Samuel Runyan, fence viewers. The first justices of the peace were elected on May 5, 1835, John Cox and William Williams being chosen to fill this office.

These men who were elected at this early date to fill the township

offices were prominent in the affairs of the township and its most substantial citizens. It is noteworthy that some of the men filled more than one office, owing to the fact that the township was sparsely settled at this early date.

The first school held in the township was taught by Christian Huber. It was held in a log cabin located northeast of the present waterworks of Ottawa. Mr. Huber was of German birth, well educated and took a prominent part in the early political affairs of the county. His pupils were a mixed assemblage of youths, a number of Indian boys being enrolled under him. The Indian boys, however, were loth to attend school regularly and frequently "played hookey," to hunt and fish.

The first tavern was built of hewed logs and was kept by Michael Row. This tavern was well patronized by early travelers and early meetings of the citizens were held here to discuss matters pertaining to the welfare of the township and the early settlers. The first saw-mill was located on the Blanchard river a short distance west of the Glandorf bridge. It was built by James Adgate and was well patronized by the early settlers, there being few saw-mills in the county at this time and a plentiful supply of timber.

Since this was a famous settlement of the Indians, it need only be mentioned that the forests were full of wild game and the rivers afforded excellent fishing. Bears, deer, wolves, wild turkeys, and all kinds of small game were to be found here in abundance before the Indians gave it up as their hunting ground.

The town of Ottawa was laid out by Aughinbaugh and Barnett in June, 1834. It was the site of the old Indian town of Lower Tawa, named after the tribe of Indians who had a reserve of about twenty-eight sections of land in this township. In 1832 the Indians sold this tract of land to the United States, and left for that part of the Indian territory which at present is a part of Kansas. The original town plat consisted of only one hundred and twenty-eight lots. This subject will be taken up more fully in another chapter.

The present township officers are as follows: Justices of the peace, E. F. Wieser and John Cowan; trustees, John E. Reinman, Joseph Klausing and John Diemer; clerk, J. A. Missler; treasurer, Harry Nienberg; constable, Frank Recker.

## OTTAWA.

The site where the village of Ottawa now stands was once a center of the Indian tribes of northeastern Ohio, but before the village proper was laid out, the Indians had bidden adieu to their once-famous abode. At the time the first settlers came to this part of the state to make permanent settlements, which was around 1825-30, there were but few Indians making their home in Tawa village. The Indians had ceded their reservation to the white man and were transferred to their new reservation in Kansas. However, only about two-thirds of them ever reached their new home, as they died of small-pox contracted on their journey. They were transferred to their new reservation under the management of a Mr. Hollister, of Perrysburg, who was the government's agent at that time.

No startling events are characterized by the creation of the new hamlet and but little more than ordinary interest can be aroused by this discussion, outside of the recital of a few historical facts. A few Indians remained here as late as 1836-39, but they were friendly to the white man, and incidents have even been related where the white man stayed with the Indian until suitable quarters could be provided for his family.

In the early part of the year 1833 a few families came to what had been until that time a reservation of the Ottawa Indians. In June of the following year Messrs. Aughenbaugh and Barnett laid out the town as a hamlet. They gave it the name of Ottawa in honor of the tribe of red men who had occupied a few "shacks" constituting the Tawa village, located on what is now commonly called the Green. John and David Cox, C. T. Pomeroy, William Galbreath, Michael Row, Mr. Williams and Samuel Runyan and their families were about the only settlers here at this time and constituted almost the entire citizenship of the hamlet for several years. But slowly the hamlet was gathering in the sturdy and honest settlers who a short time later were going to be the strong force behind this village to make it the center of the county; the Indian tepee was gradually giving way to the log cabin and civilization was beginning to claim this fertile land which was soon to serve a better purpose than being the hunting grounds of the Indian.

In 1834, when Ottawa was laid out, there were only five families in the place, those of John and David Cox, C. T. Pomeroy, William Galbreath and Michael Row. In addition, there were two men by the name of Williams and Runyan. At this late day, it is impossible to trace the growth of the

infant village, but it was not until the county seat was located here in 1866 that the village began to assume respectable proportions.

Michael Row built the first cabin on the site of Ottawa in May, 1834. This rude cabin served as the first tavern and became noted as a public house to all who had occasion to visit this section of the state. Many of the most eminent men of Ohio gathered around its festive board and drank the hard cider and still harder whiskey which the genial proprietor served to his guests. Row kept the tavern until his death and the old tavern, built more than four score years ago, is still standing. It was weather-boarded in 1877 and is now occupied by Falke & Kerner, monument dealers. The first frame house in the town was built by William Williams, a short time after Row erected his tavern.

#### POSTOFFICE.

The first postoffice was established in 1837 and was called Buckeye. This was made necessary because there was another postoffice by the name of Ottawa in the state. Buckeye continued to be the name of the postoffice until 1862, when, through the efforts of Dr. C. M. Godfrey, the name was changed to Ottawa. Dr. C. M. Godfrey was the first postmaster and Capt. F. S. Godfrey was the village postmaster a few years later. Several years later, Captain Godfrey became treasurer of the county.

#### EARLY GROWTH.

John Cox has the honor of being the first merchant in Ottawa and opened a general store in 1835. Dr. C. P. Pomeroy, the first physician, began to practice here in 1835. Dr. C. M. Godfrey came here in 1837 and studied under Doctor Pomeroy. In 1854 Doctor Pomeroy laid out the first addition to the town. The prospect of the building of the Dayton & Michigan railroad caused an increase in population at this time, and the town began to experience its first boom. Additions were laid out in 1858, 1859 and in 1865, the additions the latter years embracing a large portion of the eastern part of the town.

On July 4, 1859, the railroad between Dayton and Toledo was completed and this event was celebrated in a manner befitting the occasion. This year may be taken as the beginning of a new era in the history of Ottawa and from this time the town began to plan to get the county seat moved from Kalida to this place. Seven years were to elapse before this much-desired change was made and these seven years saw the rising village take on the



airs of a real town. In February, 1861, it was incorporated and J. B. Fruchey became the first mayor.

During the Civil War everything was quiet, but with the moving of the county seat from Kalida, in the fall of 1866, the town began to grow. All of the lawyers and many of the best people of Kalida moved to the new county seat and between 1866 and 1870 the population of Ottawa more than doubled. With this influx of people, a new energy was developed, and a new era inaugurated. The frolicsome pig was soon to seek a wallow on some other than the principal business streets and the family geese to find a roosting place other than the sidewalk in front of the business houses. In 1866 a newspaper was launched in the town and many new business enterprises were established. Among these may be mentioned the following: Cobb, Pierce & Squires, dry goods; Cox, Bressler & Company, dry goods; Godfrey & Row, tavern; C. Wormsley, shoe shop; G. W. Brown, ashery; W. T. Soper, cabinet shop; David Cox, saw-mill; McCurdy & Allen, saw-mill; George B. Fuller, physician; T. J. Logan and J. B. Woodruff, lawyers; Col. J. L. H. Long, civil engineer; J. L. Olney, merchant. It may be mentioned in passing, that Mr. Olney is the only one of all of these early merchants who is now living. He is spending his declining days in the town where he began his career as a merchant three score years ago.

#### FIRST CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS.

The first church erected in Ottawa was that of the United Brethren and this denomination still uses it as a house of worship. The first school house was a rude log structure erected in 1836. The first school teacher was Priscilla Compton, who afterwards became the wife of Isaac McCracken, a pioneer citizen of Kalida. The only other school in the township before that time was taught by Christian Huber in his cabin a short distance east of Ottawa. As the years went by, better educational facilities were demanded and today Ottawa boasts of three excellent school buildings.

#### MORE RECENT GROWTH.

The growth of the town was steady from this time and, unlike some of the towns which spring up and flourish for a short time and then die out, this village was destined to be the leading metropolis in the county. Through the efforts of Doctor Pomeroy is largely due the construction of the Dayton & Michigan railroad through Ottawa. This was completed and trains run in

November, 1859. The Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western was completed and trains have run since 1894. The Detroit, Toledo & Ironton was constructed in 1896. At present Ottawa has three railroads and an electric line, which gives her all the transportation facilities required.

#### PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The first court house was completed and the first court held was in 1868. However, court was held here the year previous. This was a brick structure and did credit to the times. The present court house is a beautiful and imposing edifice and no county seat in Ohio of the same size can boast of such a modern building. It is a three-story structure with all of the modern conveniences, including elevator, assembly room for public meetings, rest rooms and fully equipped rooms for all of the different county officials.

The first county jail was constructed in 1869 and was replaced by the present structure in 1900. The present building is located across the street from the court house and is very modern and well equipped for the needs of the lawless unfortunates.

#### WATER WORKS.

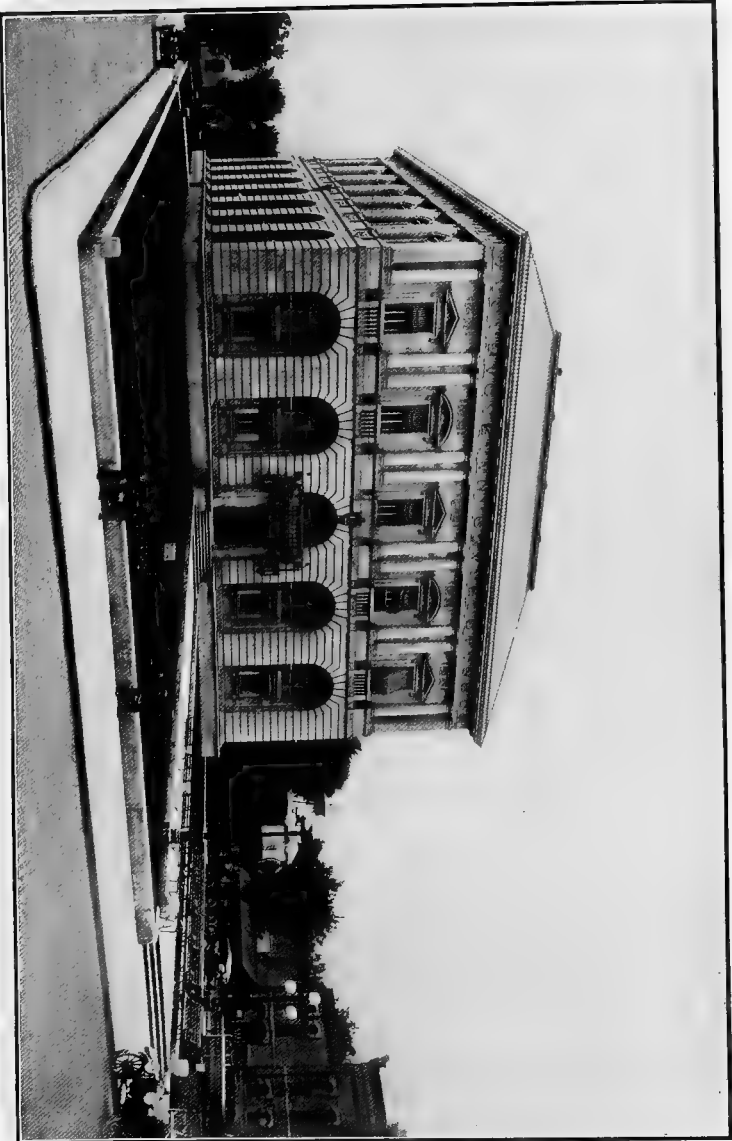
The Ottawa water works was completed in the year 1904. In 1892 the Legislature adopted the municipal code and created the board of public affairs. The first board appointed in Ottawa consisted of the following enterprising citizens: George D. Hamden, Dr. H. Huber, and George D. Kinder, the latter being chosen as the president of the board. Doctor Huber served for one year, when he resigned, and W. H. Harber was appointed to fill the vacancy. Subsequently Messrs. Kinder, Hamden and Rauh were elected for two years and have filled the office up to the present time, being re-elected every two years. Through the efforts of these three men the present water works system was installed. The water works is located in the city park, which is on the east side of the town. This park is a very pretty amusement place for a village of this size. Numerous cages of animals and birds have been placed here and it is fitted up for the amusement of the children.

Ottawa also has an excellent volunteer fire department and is the equal of any volunteer company in this section of the state. They have given good service on many occasions and have even made runs to different towns in the county which were in distress. On one occasion two of the firemen





FIRST COURT HOUSE AT OTTAWA



PUTNAM COUNTY COURT HOUSE.



lost their lives while fighting fire. The equipment at the present is of the best and recently a gasoline fire truck was purchased.

The opera house furnishes an excellent place for amusements and social gatherings. The armory is another imposing structure which the citizens of this village may well be proud of.

The industries consist of a tile factory, elevator and milling company, creamery, lumber yards, two cigar factories and numerous smaller industries.

The people of the town are accommodated with four churches, the Methodist Episcopal, Roman Catholic, United Brethren and Presbyterian. These churches are well attended and speak well for the religious interests of the community.

The roads leading into Ottawa are macadamized and graveled and there are four iron bridges within the limits of Ottawa spanning the Blanchard river.

Ottawa's business is conducted through the Bank of Ottawa Company and the First National Bank. The following is a directory of the business houses at the present time:

Hotel—Dumont.

Dry Goods—T. C. Hipkins & Son, J. W. Brown, G. W. Meffley.

Hardware—E. L. Frey, O. C. Wilson and Son.

Clothing—Wise Clothing Company, Rampe Store Company, D. A. Frick.

Druggists—A. R. Robenalt & Son, Gerding & Company, and Blosser.

Pianos—Schute & Butler.

Furniture and Undertaking—Heringhaus & Pope, J. H. Gallagher.

Grocery—C. I. Moore, G. D. Hamden, P. D. Ward and R. A. Alt.

Shoes—John O. Cartwright.

Meat Market—Grise & Grise, Smith & Son, Adam H. Zeherer.

Five and Ten-cent Stores—S. Rappaport, Stroup.

Jewelers—F. T. Sprague and A. F. Beckman.

Roofing—John Hornung and Doepker & Westrick.

Harness—William Klausing and Charles Martin.

Farm Implements—G. H. Knettle.

Tailors—Joseph Jessing, A. J. Banning and T. F. McElroy.

Marble Works—Falke Bros. & Kerner.

Baker—Home Bakery Company.

Lumber Company—Robert Hixon.

Fraternities—Free and Accepted Masons (lodge, chapter and council), Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Knights of the Maccabees, Modern Woodmen of America, Reindeers, Royal Arcanum,

Knights of Columbus, Catholic Knights of Ohio, National Union, Grand Army of the Republic.

#### THE SUGAR BEET INDUSTRY.

The largest factory in Putnam county is the sugar beet factory in Ottawa, a plant which cost more than a quarter of a million dollars and was operated for only two seasons. The inception of the factory dates back to 1911, when some men came to the county for the purpose of seeking a location for such a factory. So enthusiastic were they over the possibilities of making a sugar beet factory a profitable undertaking in the county that they were soon able to convince the people of Ottawa and the county that they should assist in making the establishment of a factory an assured thing.

Before the close of 1911 the citizens of Ottawa had entered into an agreement with the Ottawa Sugar Beet Company, in which they agreed to raise for the company eight thousand dollars and guarantee the planting of one thousand acres of beets the first year. The money was expended for land south of the Blanchard river, located in the Cover-Matthews-Rice addition. Thirty-four acres were secured and turned over to the company. In turn, the company agreed to erect and equip a plant and operate it for a period of five years. In case they did not live up to their part of the agreement the property was to revert to the citizens who had voluntarily subscribed the eight thousand dollars. Although the plant was operated only two years, the company did not turn the plant over, and just who really does own it at the present time is for the court to decide. In the spring of 1915 the plant was advertised for sale to cover delinquent taxes, but no one had the courage to assume the responsibility of taking it on their hands.

A mammoth building was erected in 1911-12 and was ready to handle the 1912 crop of beets. General Manager Martine was placed in charge of the plant and during the first season manufactured a million and a half pounds of sugar. This amount was increased by a third the second year and there did not appear any good reason why the plant was not a success in every way. However, strange things will happen.

At the close of the second season the plant was closed down and the huge building has remained deserted ever since. When it will be opened for business again no one seems to know, nor is there any certainty that it will ever be operated again. In addition to the manufacture of sugar, a man from Ironton, Ohio, put in a hundred-thousand-dollar equipment for taking care of the by-products. He made a kind of stock food, which found a



ready sale in the market and he was apparently making a success of his business at the time the factory closed. He had to be content with getting out of the business with the experience he gained, since his investment was a complete loss on his hands when the factory ceased operation.

During the two years the factory was in operation, Ottawa enjoyed a reign of prosperity which it had never before known. Many men found employment in the factory and many more secured work in raising the beets. Scores of Belgians came into the county and found ready employment with farmers. Most of them were unmarried men and traveled from farm to farm in wagons which they had fitted up in such a manner that they could live in them. They contracted with many farmers to take entire charge of their crop, from planting to harvesting, for which they received eighteen dollars an acre. One man could not tend much more than five acres alone and hence it was necessary to secure additional help if the farmer was going to raise anything else except tomatoes. The profit to the farmer varied from fifty to a hundred dollars an acre and probably averaged seventy-five dollars an acre.

Only an unrefined brown sugar was manufactured and, strange to say, the company refused to sell a pound of the sugar to any one in the county. Most of the sugar was shipped to Cincinnati and distributed from that city. The amount of sugar derived from a ton of beets varied considerably, ranging from one hundred to two hundred pounds. Each load of beets was tested for its sugar value and the farmer was paid accordingly to the amount of sugar which it was supposed his beets would yield. The farmer received on an average of five dollars a ton for his beets.

At the same time that the local factory was in operation many farmers shipped their beets out of the county. Most of them went to factories in Toledo and Findlay, the Toledo company having a buying station at Continental. Many reasons have been advanced in explanation of the shutting down of the factory, but no two persons can agree as to what the real facts in the case are. Some have said that the machinery which was installed was second-hand and was not capable of making the company a reasonable profit. Others say that the tariff was to blame and that the Democratic party must shoulder the responsibility; still others maintain that the tariff has nothing to do with the matter—that the men in it simply fleeced the people out of their money and left for greener pastures. The facts as they stand now are very evident: the factory still stands and is ready to operate at any time, but no one knows whose factory it is. Within the next year the courts will establish the status of the factory and the people of Ottawa and Putnam county

are of the belief that it will soon be in operation. Time solves all mysteries—even beet sugar industries.

#### POSTMASTERS OF OTTAWA.

Due to the fact that there was another Ottawa in Ohio in 1837, the postoffice at Ottawa, Putnam county, was called Buckeye from the establishment of the office in 1837 to 1862. In the latter year C. M. Godfrey succeeded in having the postoffice department at Washington, change it to Ottawa. C. M. Godfrey was appointed postmaster upon its establishment in 1837, but it has not been possible to get the other postmasters up to 1860. The complete list since 1860 is as follows: August Schierloh, James R. Clark, James Godwin, Hiram Raff, T. D. Campbell, J. J. Zeller, J. C. Light, H. L. McDowell, Allan Graham, and G. F. Zeller, the present incumbent.

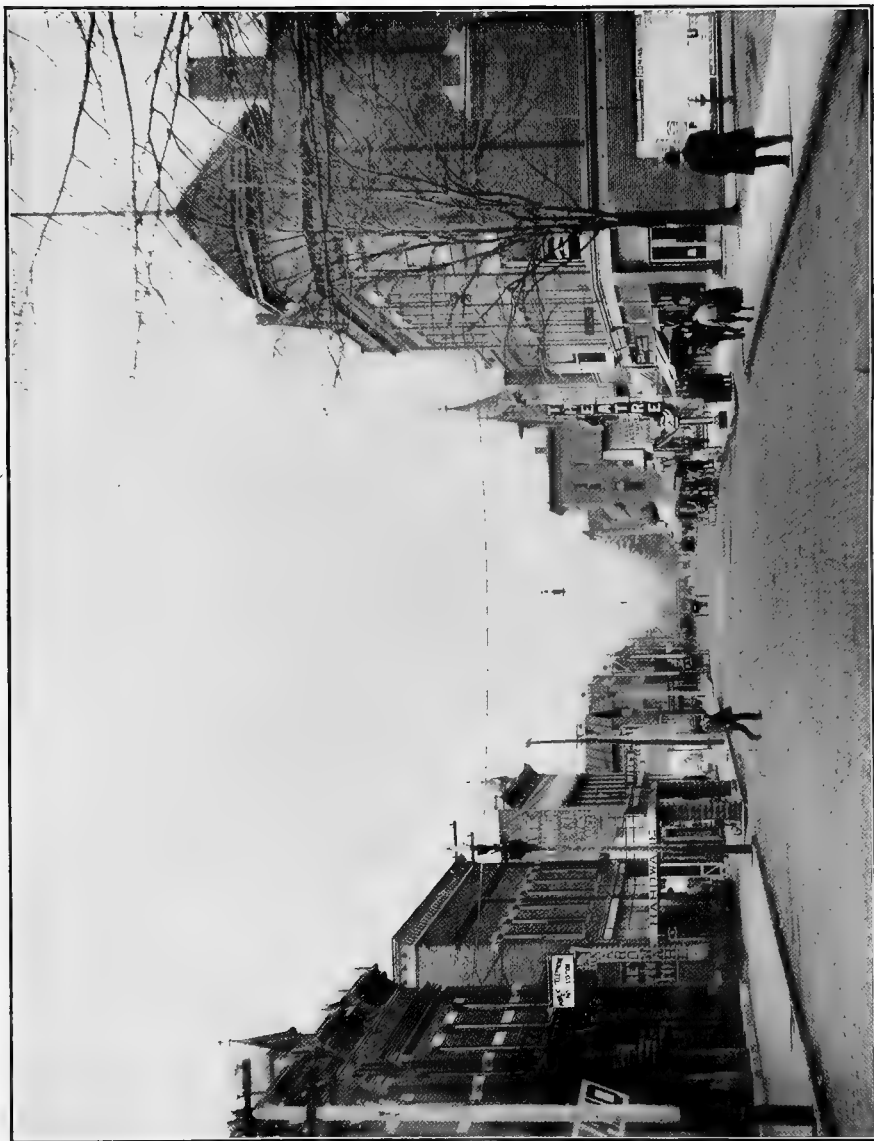
#### FINANCES OF THE TOWN OF OTTAWA.

The last annual report of the financial conditions of the town of Ottawa gives a detailed statement of all receipts and expenditures for the year 1914. The present officers of the town are as follows: T. F. McElroy, mayor; H. C. Gerding, clerk; J. W. Paden, treasurer; Edward Klausing, marshal; W. J. Graham, A. T. Fox, George Schulien, Herman McDougale, C. J. Kerner and J. H. Westrick, councilmen; G. D. Hamden, H. F. Rauh and G. D. Kinder, board of public affairs. Joseph Kersting is clerk of the board of public affairs.

The money derived from fees and taxes is divided into six funds, as follows: general, safety, service, health, sinking and water. The receipts and expenditures of these various funds for the year ending December 31, 1914, are as follows:

Fund.	Receipts.	Expenditures.	Balance.
General -----	\$ 3,206.81	\$ 2,644.80	\$ 562.01
Safety -----	5,313.47	5,001.54	311.93
Services -----	6,316.33	5,932.00	384.33
Health -----	164.60	134.40	30.20
Sinking -----	29,773.02	28,855.58	917.44
Water -----	7,434.66	6,946.19	488.47
Totals -----	\$43,793.68	\$45,664.51	\$2,694.38





MAIN STREET, OTTAWA, LOOKING WEST FROM COURT HOUSE.



WATER WORKS AND PARK AT OTTAWA.



The town treasury had a balance of \$4,565.21 left over from the previous year, which accounts for the balance at the end of 1914. The bonded indebtedness of the town is divided among five items, to-wit:

Water works -----	\$50,000.00
Main street -----	7,500.00
Defiance street -----	795.00
East Main street -----	360.00
Armory site -----	3,000.00
R. R. avenue, Oak and Locust streets-----	10,898.63
<hr/>	
Total -----	\$72,553.63

The salaries of the main town officials are nominal, the mayor drawing only two hundred dollars a year. The salaries of the other town officers are as follows: Clerk, \$260; treasurer, \$250; solicitor, \$150; councilmen, \$42; marshal, \$480; night watch, \$480.

#### GLANDORF.

Rev. Mr. Horstmann, a native of Prussia, left the Fatherland in August, 1833, and arrived in New York in November following. Father Horstmann and his companion, John F. Kahle, left Detroit on November 27 in search of a suitable location on which to found his proposed colony. Bordering on the banks of the Blanchard river they found excellent timberland and, in January, 1834, they determined on purchasing a tract of it from the government. The names of the pioneers who came in February are: A. Iburg, Christian Strop, J. Wischmann, Ferdinand Bredeick, Matthias Bock-rath and William Gulcher.

The colonists erected log cabins and these were provided with only the barest necessities of life. In laying out the village of Glandorf, the pioneers held very closely to the custom of the Province of Osnabruck, Germany, whence its founders came. There is but one street deserving the name and that extends over a mile north and south. This street is lined on either side with the quaint, durable and homelike houses of the villagers with their spacious and well-kept yards, the street being interspersed here and there with a few stores and shops. The early industries of Glandorf were shoemaking, woolen-mill, wooden-shoe manufactory and saw-mills, and it is well to note that in 1837 Father Horstmann built the first grist-mill in the village of Glandorf for the accommodation of the early settlers.

The early records fail to record the date of the first platting, but, on January 20, 1877, by an order of the court, it was re-surveyed and the lots were numbered. The village had no municipal form of government until August 7, 1891, when it was incorporated as a town, with William Altkruse, mayor; F. W. Hoffman, clerk; Joseph Nienberg, treasurer; Fred Franke, marshal; John Smith, street commissioner; W. F. Hoffman, Henry Kemper, Henry Merseman, Dr. A. Borman, B. F. Wortkoetter and Joseph Winkelman, councilmen.

Glandorf for many years was a great boot and shoe center of the county and boasts of the only woolen-mills in the county. The flouring-mill at Glandorf bears the distinction of being the first in the state using the system of rollers known as the Allfree system, which were put in by Mr. Nartker. This little village also boasts of a large bending works, operated by F. N. Ellis, and a planing-mill, but on the night of August 2, 1901, fire was discovered in the planing-mill and before assistance could be called it had made such headway that it was impossible to extinguish. The loss was twenty-five thousand dollars and this was a very severe shock to the town. At present the Americanized German village is well represented in all the different lines of business and does an extensive trade with the surrounding farmers. The population in 1910 was five hundred and fifty-eight.

The present officers are: Mayor, P. A. Missler; clerk, J. A. Missler; treasurer, B. A. Nienberg; marshal, Ferd Gulker; councilmen, G. H. Merseman, Moritz Harman, J. W. Halker, Fred Franke, Aug Nartker and Charles Mallifské.

#### BRICKNER.

New Cleveland is a small hamlet lying three miles north of Ottawa. Its postoffice is called Brickner. One store and a few houses make up the settlement.

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#### PALMER TOWNSHIP.

Palmer township was the last one organized in the county and dates its independent existence from 1854, previous to which time it had been known as North Greensburg. It was named in honor of Judge Palmer, an eminent jurist who had served on the bench in Putnam county with universal satisfaction to the people of the county. The late organization of this township was due to the lack of a sufficient population to justify its creation.



By the fall of 1854 the citizens resident within the proposed township satisfied the commissioners that the creation of a new township was necessary, and the commissioners accordingly ordered an election for January 1, 1855. The thirteen voters selected the following corps of officials: John Frazee, John Kerns and John S. Welch, trustees; John Hamilton, treasurer; David Caldwell, clerk; John Kerns, justice of the peace; David Caldwell, constable. This combination of Johns and Davids started the township on its independent career, and although sixty years have come and gone since they were elected, yet many men are still living in the township who can recall these excellent citizens.

Palmer township is situated in what was then known as the "Black Swamp," a descriptive term which fitly explains the reason why the township was so slow in being settled. The beavers threw hundreds of trees across the sluggish North and South Powell creeks and the water, thus dammed up, spread over a goodly portion of the area of the township. Old residents can still recall how these unique dams had to be torn out before the land could be drained. Many years elapsed before the streams were cleared of the obstructions in such a way that artificial drainage could be secured to any advantage. At the present time nearly all of the township has been brought under cultivation and no better land is to be found in the county than that which was until a few years ago covered with from one to two feet of water.

The present Palmer township officers are as follows: Justices of the peace, George A. Alt and John S. Schafer; trustees, Martin Gebhardt, Laurence Seimet and James Troyer; clerk, William R. Stuber; treasurer, C. C. Schafer; constables, John Seimet and William LaFountain.

#### MILLER CITY.

The same year that marked the beginning of the once famous little town of Hector saw the birth of another village in Palmer township. Miller City, although taking a slow growth at first, was destined to a longer life than her sister city. It was laid out and platted by Aaron Overbeck on August 22, 1882, and dedicated under the name of St. Nicholas, by Nicholas Noriot and Nicholas Miller, the proprietors of the two parcels of land upon which the village plat was located.

The country around this village became a veritable garden spot after it had become thoroughly drained of its swamps and was known as the South Prairie. Large and small garden and farm produce was raised in

abundance and Miller City became the shipping point for these enormous crops, as well as much of the timber and lumber products manufactured in its vicinity. Stores were established under this impetus and the town grew with such rapidity that Mr. Miller deemed it necessary to lay out new additions, which he did in 1884 and 1887.

Upon petition to the county commissioners, the town was duly incorporated on November 26, 1890, under the name of Miller City, being so named for the original proprietor, Nicholas Miller, to whose energy and business tact the growth and progress of the village was largely due. This city, situated as it is on the Nickel Plate railroad, which affords it a ready outlet to eastern markets, is certain to make advances. The Miller City Tile Company is one of the greatest industries at the present time and, with her other business establishments, the town has assurance of the country trade.

The present officers of the town are as follow: Mayor, J. M. Dobneyer; clerk, F. E. Kern; treasurer, William Hohenbrink; marshal, Jacob Warnamont; councilmen, C. M. Huber, Frank Gasken, John Noon, Joe Snaiger, L. P. Maxwell, Oswald Brown.

The population in 1910 was three hundred.

#### KIEFERVILLE.

Kieferville was laid out and platted by D. A. Kiefer, the surveying and platting being the work of ex-County Surveyor Lewis E. Holtz, in 1870. This town was laid out on the old Continental railroad grade, the Nickel Plate railroad having taken over this proposed line a few years later and used it for their main line, and the Defiance pike, which crosses the Nickel Plate at this point. The town has experienced no booms and has struggled along with its existence. A hotel, church and general stores accommodate the inhabitants of this little village. Kieferville bears the distinction of being the first town laid out in Palmer township.

#### NORTH CREEK.

North Creek was the second town laid out in Palmer township. It was platted in 1879, and lies on the Clover Leaf railroad. The first lots were surveyed for William Schafer, who was a man of energy, and the prosperity and growth of North Creek were due to his efforts.

## HECTOR.

Hector was platted and laid out on December 26, 1882. This town was the home of the Hector Stave Company, which was one of the largest and leading industries of this county until the timber was exhausted. The town was platted by E. W. Dimmock, county surveyor, and named in honor of Hector Havemeyer, one of the members of the company.

The growth of this little village was very rapid and at the height of its prosperity it was the center of the mercantile trade of that locality. The Hector store, through its standard methods and square dealings, was known throughout Putnam county. The proprietors of Hector were liberal in contributing their efforts and means toward the development of the town. The Hector Creamery and Cheese Company was organized in 1891 and the first creamery in the county was thus started. Churches, school building and a Knights of Pythias lodge hall were built through the contributions of this company. The history and growth of the company will be taken up in another chapter. With the exhaustion of the timber, the prosperity of the town began to wane and at the present time this once flourishing town and commercial center is nothing more than a railroad stop.

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PERRY TOWNSHIP.

Perry was the first township organized in what is now Putnam county and dates from 1828. It was named in honor of Commodore Perry and at first included all of the territory now in Putnam county. It has been decreased from time to time, as new townships were organized, until it now has thirty-six square miles. It was given its present limits in 1848, when the south tier of sections was attached to Jackson township. The early history of the township is shrouded in more or less obscurity, due to the fact that the first records have been lost. The first settlers appear to have located near the junction of the Auglaize and Blanchard rivers. The best evidence points to Robert Wallen, who settled there in 1819, as the first actual settler in the township. He was followed in 1821 by David Murphy, Thomas McClish, Silas McClish and Sebastian Shroufe, with their respective families. The last-named pioneer is credited with planting the first nursery in the county and it was from this that a large number of the orchards of the county received their start. Other settlers came in during each succeeding year until,

by 1828, there were enough to justify the organization of a separate township. In 1823 came Andrew Craig, Daniel Sullivan, William Bowen and a man by the name of Cavanaw. William Harrell located in the township in 1825, and in the following year John Ridenour and Dimmit Mackrill cast their fortunes with the new settlement in the township. The year 1827 saw William Bishop, Joseph Frazee, Joel Wilcox, Abel Crossley and a few others locating in the new settlement.

Following the formal organization of the township in 1828, an election was ordered held at the house of Sebastian Shroufe. At that time the following officers were elected: William Harrell, Abel Crossley and John Ridenour, trustees; Silas McClish, clerk; Joel Wilcox, treasurer; William Bishop, supervisor; Sebastian Shroufe, justice of the peace; Dimmit Mackrill, constable.

This Dimmit Mackrill was a man of energy and was deeply interested in the welfare of his township and county. A story is told of him which goes to show how zealous he was in the discharge of his duties. In 1832 he was road supervisor for his own township, but for some reason he thought his district took in the whole county. Accordingly, he notified all the men living along the Blanchard river, from the mouth of the river to the Hancock county line, to appear on a certain day for work on the south side of the Auglaize river. As might be expected, some of the settlers appeared for work on the appointed day, while others did not. Whether Mackrill was really in ignorance of the size of his district, history does not record, but it is safe to say that the stout old pioneers who worked on that day did valiant service in improving the road in question.

The first election in Perry township was held at the house of Sebastian Shroufe in 1828, and at that time the following officers were elected: William Harrell, Abel Crossley and John Ridenour, trustees; Silas McClish, clerk; Joel Wilcox, treasurer; William Bishop, supervisor; Sebastian Shroufe, justice of the peace; Dimmit Mackrill, constable. The present officers of the township are as follows: Justices of the peace, W. H. Fensler and Steven Wannamacher; trustees, John Carder, W. T. Etter and Gilbert McClish; treasurer, P. A. Scharf; constables, C. C. Etter and Ed Lehmkuhle; ditch supervisor, D. H. Nutt.

Although Perry is the oldest township in the county, it has been improved slower than any other, due to the fact that so much of the land was swampy in character. Within the past quarter of a century the township has made rapid strides and now ranks favorably with other townships

in the county along all lines. The population of the township in 1910 was one thousand five hundred and eighty-one.

#### FRANCONIA.

Franconia was the first town laid out in the township. It was laid out by Amos Kendall in 1837 and the first store was kept by Parlee Carlin. A double log cabin, which was featured by Howe as a "Home in the Wilderness," was erected by Sebastian Shroufe, and P. B. Holden later kept a tavern in the same building. While Franconia was a flourishing little center of trade for a number of years, it has long since disappeared and nothing now remains of what was once hoped would be a substantial town. Other towns in this township include Cloverdale (Drucilla), Dupont, Cascade and Huntstown.

#### DUPONT.

Dupont was for many years the largest town in the township. It was platted in 1877 and named in honor of Rear Admiral S. F. Dupont, of the United States navy, a postoffice of that name having been established in the year 1864. The mail route at that time ran from Ottawa to Charloe, twenty-six miles, and was traveled once a week.

In 1877 the Toledo, Delphos & Indianapolis narrow gauge railroad was built through the village; in 1888 the entire route was changed to a standard gauge and known as the Toledo, St. Louis & Kansas City railroad.

Dupont was incorporated in 1888 and E. W. Dimock was chosen to serve as the first mayor. This village began to grow and its prosperity seemed assured, but occasionally the healthiest child fails to become the strongest man. In the height of the town's prosperity there were two stave-mills which did an extensive business, two hotels, tile-mill, saw-mills, an axe-handle factory, and five general merchandise stores. The population of the town was about seven hundred. Then came the decline.

The first blow which Dupont had to endure was the failure of the timber and, in consequence, the removal of the stave factories, her chief industry. The second blow came with the building of the Nickel Plate railroad across the Clover Leaf at Continental, and the final step was the construction of the Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western through Cloverdale, just two and one-half miles south of the village.

The present population is about three hundred. A tile factory, a general store, grocery and hardware store represent her business interests. The

school facilities are very good. The present officials are: Clerk, T. R. Hart; treasurer, W. T. Etter; marshal, Allen Williams; councilmen, C. C. Etter, George Etter, Thomas McClish, Sol. Wollam, R. C. Brandt and William Spencer.

#### CASCADE.

Cascade lies on the west bank of the Auglaize river and on the Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western railroad, a branch of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad. It was platted in 1892 by E. W. Dimmick, for Charles Andrews. Myers' mill, the first in the county, was located here, and its owner, Samuel Myers, was one of the most prominent citizens of the village for many years. In fact, the place was locally known as Myers' Mill for many years and even to this day it is probably as well known by this name as that of Cascade. At the present time nothing is left but the remains of the old mill, and its ground its last grist many years ago. The site of the former village is picturesque and thousands of people make it a picnic ground every year.

#### CLOVERDALE.

Cloverdale is situated at the junction of the two railroads crossing the township and dates its existence from 1891. It was surveyed and platted by E. W. Dimmick for W. H. and E. M. Mozier, Tunis and Nora Truax and Austin and Mary Combs, the proprietors. The first postoffice was called Drucilla. Although there had been a town here since the construction of the Cloverleaf railroad in 1877, which was known as Evansville, it was never platted, and when the new town was platted the name Cloverdale was given and the former name gradually disappeared. It was incorporated on April 11, 1902.

The first officers were T. J. Ludwig, clerk; Anthony Holguve, treasurer; Peter Harris, marshal; William Strucker, J. A. L. Harris, John Heitzman and Austin Combs, trustees; Austin Combs was the first squire and William Corkwell the first constable.

Settlers who located here as early as 1877 were, Pope Burbage, who ran the first saloon; George Price, who kept the first store; Hollis Hanson, who ran the first saw-mill; Nathan Dalton, who had the first wagon and paint shop, and Austin Combs, the first postmaster. The first house was built by Irvin Follis and the hotel by Joseph Gingrich. In 1891 the Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western railroad was built through the town and it began a steady growth. The tile factory, saw and hub-mill, lumber yards, ele-

vator and other smaller industries located here in close succession. A town hall was erected in 1913, at a cost of three thousand dollars, and the place at present has a population of three hundred.

Two churches, grade and parochial schools, and the present general prosperous air of the town give evidence of the thrift and business ability of its settlers. It bids fair to become a thriving little village. The town officers are as follows: Mayor, P. A. Scharf; clerk, O. B. Andrews; treasurer, L. B. Mason; marshal, Edward Lehmkuhle; councilmen, John Blosser, John Berhude, Theo. Horstman, R. E. Baxter, Ben Andrews, and Fred Kohl.

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#### PLEASANT TOWNSHIP.

The first settlements in Pleasant township were made in 1832 by William Turner, Eckless Ney, McDonald Osborn, Henry Morris, James Porter and William McComb. Late in November of the following year John Featheringill came in with his family. Mr. Featheringill secured lodging in an Indian camp until he could hew logs and erect a cabin. John Bogart purchased a farm in the following year and moved on it in March. Adam and James Turner were the next to cast in their lot in the early settlement.

In 1834 the township took on a permanent organization. There were at this time only seven voters in the township and it was through their efforts that the organization was accomplished. Following are the names of the voters: John B. Bogart, William and Adam Turner, Neham Smith, John Featheringill, Abe Fuller and William Casebolt. There is no record of the first officers, but it is certain that they were divided among these early voters, though just what offices each held can not be ascertained. In 1839 the township contained about one hundred inhabitants and fifteen to twenty voters.

The public road, leading from Wapakoneta to Perrysburg, was laid out about 1835, but was not opened for public use until some time later. The first births in the township were twins, Martha and Rebecca, daughters of William Turner, in 1833. The first death was an infant child of McDonald Osborn, which died in December, 1833, and was the first burial in the graveyard at Truro church.

The first log school house was erected in 1836, about half a mile northeast of Columbus Grove, and here John Wamsley conducted the first school in the winter of 1836-37. The postoffice was established in 1844, with Adam Turner as the first postmaster.

The first manufacturing interests established here was an ashery and a

clay pottery factory, by a Mr. Durfee. A store of supplies was later opened by Sheldon Guthrie. The trade consisted of exchanging furs for goods, as money was very scarce. A good hunting hound was valued at one hundred dollars and the government purchased wolf scalps for three and four dollars, this furnishing the settlers with money to pay their taxes.

The first religious services were held in a log cabin belonging to John Bogart, in 1834. The first sermon was rendered by a young man named Cutler, of the Methodist Episcopal faith. In the same year Rev. Mr. Morris, of the Protestant Methodist church, came to this township and held services. Later, Michael Long, who was known as the boy preacher, of the United Brethren church, came to this settlement. In 1836 a Rev. Poge (or Page), of the Presbyterian faith, came to this township and organized the first church of that order here. The Baptists held services at the home of James Turner at an early date.

The present township officials are as follow: Justices of the peace, A. Crawford, L. E. Mullin and Henry Buck; trustees, B. F. Irwin, G. W. Bowess and William Trask; clerk, F. M. Williams; treasurer, Elias Williams; constables, H. L. Irwin and G. W. Luce.

#### COLUMBUS GROVE.

The village of Columbus Grove was laid out and platted in December, 1842, by Capt. Frederick Fruchey, the proprietor. It was surveyed and platted for the proprietor by Benjamin Dunning. Captain Fruchey and most of the early settlers came from Columbus, Franklin county, and the site of this town being a famous Indian sugar grove, hence the name.

The first house built in Columbus Grove was a log dwelling, erected by John Mumea on the lot where the Lenhart block now stands. The first frame dwelling was built by Samuel Sterlin, who also erected the first brick structure in the village. The first manufacturing establishment was an ashery and pottery, built and operated by the Durfey brothers. They manufactured black salts and pearl ash, and, in the pottery, crocks, jugs and other earthen wares. In 1843 Sheldon Guthrie erected a small building on a lot near the Durfeys' establishment and opened a small supply store, exchanging goods for furs, there being but little money in this new country. Columbus Grove was incorporated in 1864 by John J. Baker and others. The first officers were David Jones, mayor; S. B. McHenry, clerk. The first tavern was built by James Pier. This was a hewed-log structure, three rooms on the ground floor and two on the second. Among the business men of the town in 1850,



in addition to the ones previously mentioned were: Leeman Woodruff, J. B. Jones, Evan R. Davis and E. W. Greene.

Theodore Kunneke came to this village in 1853. He built a saw-mill for Jonathan Brice, and later a mill to grind corn and buckwheat was added. After finishing this contract, Mr. Kunneke purchased two corner lots at the junction of High and Sycamore streets, upon each of which he erected a two-story frame building for business and dwelling. The Kunneke block now stands on one of these lots. A. H. Day came to this village in 1860 and opened up a store. He has contributed as much in the way of substantial buildings as any of its citizens. The New Grove House and the Opera House block were erected by him. Other settlers who followed a short time later and have been large contributors to the material side of the town are: Simon Maple, David Jones, W. W. Williams, Thomas Jones, Robert and J. M. G. Patterson.

The Dayton & Michigan railroad was built through this town in 1859 and ran the first train on July 12 of that year. In 1882 the Pittsburg, Akron & Western was constructed, and in 1895 the Lima Northern was built. The growth of this village is not surprising with its excellent railroad facilities and the enterprising business men at its helm.

The officers of Columbus Grove are as follows: Mayor, W. G. Poast; clerk, Curtis Magher; treasurer, Jay Hartman; marshal, G. J. Doty; councilmen, Benton Martz, W. M. Crawford, R. C. Deffenbaugh, C. M. Doty, Lemuel Bogart, Bert Holmes; trustees of public affairs, J. H. Eversole, Henry Light, H. R. Day.

The following is a list of the business and professional interests of Columbus Grove:

Industries—The Jones handle factory, Columbus Grove Tile Company, Light Lumber Company, Sarber cement block and tile factory, Kissels Poultry and Ice Company, Faze coal yards and cement block factory, McAdams Seed Company, Parker Sanitarium, Columbus Grove Grain Company, Annesser Milling Company, People's Elevator, Jones harness factory, Losh laundry, Williams monument factory, Johnson's Poultry Company, Buckeye garage, Slusser garage.

Stores—H. R. Day, dry goods and groceries; Home Industry, dry goods and groceries; Louis Mapel, clothing; C. E. Magher, grocery; A. K. Sarber, grocery; J. B. Ehrnman, grocery; R. P. Hartman, grocery; Billingsly & Son, grocery; Bert Holmes, druggist; S. E. Lewis, druggist; Humphrey & Sterling, undertaking; Elmer E. Morris, jeweler and optician; Luce & Shinna-berry, meats and groceries; Jones & Kidd, shoes; Stan Sakemiller, shoes; A.

A. Starkwether, implements; Martz & Jones, implements; M. C. Sterling, clothing; Stephens & Kraus, harness and repairing; Lena Smith, millinery; Frost & Gladfelter, meat; Williams Brothers, hardware; W. E. Pease, hardware; Levi Basinger, notion store; H. H. Hollis, pianos; Daniels book store; Daniel Slusser, feed store.

Other Business—R. P. Killen, dentist; A. B. Hilty, dentist; Wittenburg Hotel; L. E. Bogart, restaurant; Haller, restaurant; Charles Murhab, fruit and ice cream; Trice, livery; Bowman, livery; Norris, barber shop; Strow & Cox, barber shop; Wilbur Saunders, barber shop; George Buck, barber shop; Trask, barber shop; C. M. Doty, billiard and pool; Port Tegarden, billiard and pool; Smith & Tate, sale and feed barn; Eversole, smith and repairing; John Davis, horseshoeing.

Banks—Peoples and Exchange.

Doctors—E. A. Balmer, Walter C. Corns, H. H. Sink, G. H. Wilcox, W. H. Begg, Isaac Fullerton.

Columbus Grove, being situated in a very rich agricultural community and with excellent railway facilities, is able to bear the reputation of being one of the largest shipping centers of live stock in the state. The annual shipments of live stock are, normally, three hundred and twenty-five cars; grain, hay and straw, four hundred and fifty cars; sugar beets, two hundred cars; other shipments, including eggs, dressed poultry, wool, handles, etc., sixty-eight cars.

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#### RILEY TOWNSHIP.

The organization of Riley township dates from 1834 and at that time included the present township of Richland (Allen county), in addition to its present area. The first settler, Thomas Gray (1832), was followed the next year by John Sigafoose, Adam Stout, Moses Rice, Bildad Hubbard and B. F. Dunning. The year 1834 brought in a large number of families, including those of George Bushong, Thomas Lake, James Bunn, J. D. Wamsley, William Hand, John Hand, Jacob Clover, George Farnum, Myron Rice, Isaiah Cook, N. H. Bagley, Peter Rice, William Thrapp, George Blackburn, George Alkire, Stephen Cortright and George Wilson. Jesse Hall and a few others located in the township in the following year. All of these early settlers were known as Yankees and were sturdy pioneers, well fitted to cope with the dangers and privations of frontier life such as faced them when they settled here.

Before 1835, however, the German migration to this township began.



COLUMBUS GROVE IN 1851.



COLUMBUS GROVE IN 1914.



These settlers were natives of Switzerland, although of German descent. Daniel Nicewander and Dorse Amstutz settled here in 1833 and were followed in the succeeding year by Christian Suter, Christian Basinger and Christian Bucher. Bucher lived to be one hundred years and seven months of age, dying in 1879. The wife of Bucher died in 1835, hers being the first death in the German settlement. In 1835 came Christian and John Shoemaker, John and Ulric Basinger, John Musser and Christian Steiner. The year 1846 brought in John Diller, Christian Amstutz, Christian Luga-bill, John Geiger, John Lugabill and David Stauffer. The German settlement kept growing from year to year and was soon one of the most prosperous sections of the county. These were all Mennonites and as soon as they settled they made provisions for religious services. At first they held services in the homes of the settlers, but by 1840 they had a substantial hewed-log church. Christian Steiner was the first pastor.

The first election in Riley township was held in April, 1834, at the home of Thomas Gray, and at that time the following officers were elected: Thomas Gray, Joseph DeFord and John Stout, trustees; William Hand, clerk; Bildad Hubbard, supervisor; Thomas Gray, justice of the peace; George Farnum, constable. These appear to have been only temporary officers; at least, another election was held in April of the following year, at which the following corps of officials were selected: John Stout, Moses Rice and George Wilson, trustees; N. H. Bagley, clerk; Bildad Hubbard, supervisor; J. D. Wamsley, justice of the peace; George Farnum, constable. The township retained its original area until 1847, when the southern tier of seven sections was detached and added to Allen county, leaving the township with thirty square miles.

The first road through the township was what was known as the Williamstown road, and this was followed shortly afterward by the Findlay-Van Wert road. William J. Wilson was the first pedagogue and taught his first school in the winter of 1836-37. Another school house was built the same year, but history has not preserved the name of its first teacher.

The present officers of Riley township are as follows: Justices of the peace, M. E. Krohn and Daniel Schumacher; trustees, P. P. Schumacher, W. M. Risser and C. R. Van Meter; clerk, P. A. Amstutz; treasurer, S. P. Krohn; constables, Edward Basinger and J. H. Culp.

#### PANDORA.

John Stout laid out the town of Columbia, December 1, 1836. The previous year he had built a grist-mill on Riley creek, one of the first grist-

mills of the county, which was a great convenience for the early settlers. This town was situated upon the Ridge road, leading from Findlay to Kalida and Delphos, and about half way between the county seats of Hancock and Putnam counties. For many years it was the stopping place of the lawyers and judges, while "traveling the circuit" in the early days before 1851. The tavern was kept by Henry Kilheffer and travelers on their way from Findlay to Kalida spent the night here. Many stories are still told of the jolly times that were had at the old tavern.

Later, the name was changed to Pendleton, and in 1850 the first addition was laid out by Brice W. Viers. Henry Kilheffer owned the only store at this time and in 1852 he laid out East Pendleton, which was surveyed by Henry Blosser, county surveyor. It bears the distinction of being the only town that was ever platted in Riley township.

In 1882 the narrow gauge railroad, which has since become a standard gauge road and known as the Pittsburg, Akron & Western railroad, was proposed and constructed through the town. The same year Kiene and Suter laid out their addition to the town. The name of the town was again changed, this time to Pandora, and evidently the "third time charm" worked, for it has retained that name to the present time.

Additions were laid out in 1891, by H. M. Day; 1893, by R. N. McAdams; the same year S. P. Krohn laid out his addition and the following year H. M. Day laid out a second addition. It was re-surveyed by an order from the court, April 24, 1892, and incorporated on November 5th of the same year.

Situated as it was, in the center of one of the best-improved sections of the county, surrounded with rich farm land and magnificent buildings which can hardly be surpassed in any locality of the state, it took a slow deep-rooted growth, which began to show a few years later. The farms were settled principally by sturdy Mennonites, whose faith forbids quarreling and litigation.

The overall factory has been one of the greatest agents in making Pandora what it is at present. The history of this factory will appear in another paragraph. The population in 1910 numbered five hundred and sixty-two. It has paved streets, a modern high school, bank, and stores that rival any in the county. The Ohio & Northern railroad gives the people accommodations east and west. The Pandora Milling Company does quite an extensive business in this locality. The lumber and planing mills also employ a number of men and carry on a large business in their line. The present town officials are: Mayor, P. A. Amstutz; clerk, Grover Davidson; treas-

urer, A. S. Hilty; marshal, John Culp; councilmen, Samuel Haas, P. D. Amstutz, C. C. Hilty, John Gerber, J. A. Suter, Adam Bixler.

#### PANDORA MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

The Pandora Manufacturing Company, which was formerly called the Pandora Overall Company, was organized in August, 1901, by the following men, who were not only the founders, but the first officers and directors: John M. Amstutz, president; John Gerber, vice-president; Jacob A. Suter, secretary and treasurer; Albert A. Burry, Carl Gerber. It was capitalized at ten thousand dollars. Five thousand six hundred dollars of the stock was retained by the founders and the rest was sold to outsiders. In the fall of same year the plant was started, with six sewing machines. The minutes of the directors give the first purchase of raw material in October. The first overalls were made in a part of an old woolen mill, where the first six machines were installed.

The success of the business seemed assured from the start and in 1902 the capital stock was increased to twenty-five thousand dollars. A part of this stock was offered for sale to outsiders. In September of this year W. E. Caldwell, of Cincinnati, purchased stock in the company and became its secretary and manager. At this same time four more directors were added, and it is interesting to note that one of these men was Elias Welty, the present manager. The woolen mill burned in September, 1902, before the new stock was offered for sale. This incurred a loss, as the factory was only partly insured.

Work on a new building was immediately begun, which is part of the present structure. Owing to an increase of business, electric cutters were installed in 1903. Mr. Caldwell served as manager until 1905, when he was succeeded by John De Haan, who was formerly manager of the Singer Sewing Machine Company. In 1905 an addition was built, doubling the capacity of the factory. In the same year a number of Toledo men became interested in the company and purchased a controlling interest, the capital stock being increased to fifty thousand dollars. In 1906 a similar plant was started at Toledo and the main offices moved to that place, but this move proved a failure and the plant was discontinued in 1908. The following year Mr. De Haan resigned as manager and Elias Welty, who has been mentioned previously as a stockholder and director, became manager and secretary. To say that Mr. Welty was competent to fill the position would be speaking modestly, as he had been connected with the factory for eight years

and served in every capacity and department from engineer up. In 1910 A. J. Welty became interested and purchased the Toledo stock, thus bringing the control back to the Pandora community.

From this time forward the success of the factory was assured and in the year 1912 more business was done than in any two previous years and more salesmen were added. Orders were coming in so fast that it was impossible to fill them. It was deemed advisable to add another factory, which was located at Celina, Ohio. A shirt factory was also added at Zanesville, Ohio, owing to a demand for this commodity. These factories were merely taken over by this company and placed under their competent management.

In 1913 the capital stock was again increased, this time to one hundred thousand dollars. The following year the output was two hundred thousand dollars. In 1915 the name was changed, due to the fact that it was not an overall factory alone, but a manufacturing plant. The present directors and officers are: P. B. Hilty, president; J. A. Suter, vice-president; A. J. Welty, secretary; Elias Welty, manager; W. B. Jackson, manager of the Celina plant; A. G. Bruhl, manager of the Zanesville plant; David Lichty, Cleo Neuenschwander, A. P. Sandles, B. A. Unverferth and John De Haan.

This is the largest manufacturing plant in Putnam county and the present output amounts to a quarter of a million dollars a year. The stock is always in demand and the company has done a great service to the county in furnishing employment for so many men and women. The laborers are all paid by piece work and the management is so liberal in its wages that good salaries can be made by skilled and even competent labor, and no hardship is worked upon its employees.

#### WEBSTER.

This was a small country town, but was never platted. The postoffice for the town was called Stanley, but this later covered by a rural route and ceased to exist.

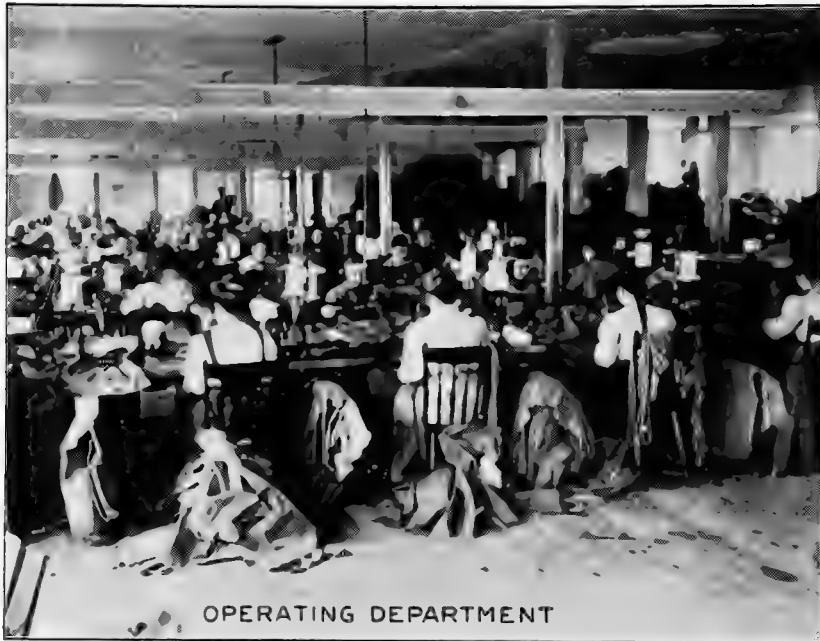
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#### SUGAR CREEK TOWNSHIP.

Sugar Creek township was surveyed in 1820 by James Riley and originally embraced thirty-six sections of land. In the year 1848, when Auglaize county was formed, the south half of this township was attached to Allen county and, in order to make Sugar Creek township of an average size and also to compensate for the loss, two tiers of sections were added







OPERATING DEPARTMENT



CUTTING  
DEPARTMENT

SCENES IN PANDORA OVERALL FACTORY.





on the north from Union township. It then contained thirty sections of land and this was to be its permanent size. It derived its name from Sugar creek, which flows north through the center part of the township. Hog creek also runs through the township about two miles west of Sugar creek and parallel with it. This excellent drainage made it a very desirable township to settle in and, since it was not covered with swamps, as some of the northern townships were, practically the entire acreage was suitable for cultivation.

The first settlement was made on Hog creek, in the southern part, by Robert Martin and Solomon Sprague, in the year 1828. The following year Benjamin Parker and a Mr. McCoy decided to make this their permanent settlement. In 1830 William Clevenger took up his claim and he was followed, a short time later, by Benjamin, Jacob, Joseph, George and Samuel Clevenger, who made their settlement near the present village of Vaughnsville. They built the Clevenger mill in the following year. This mill is thought by many of the early settlers who still survive to be the first grist-mill in the county. The same year saw John Ensley and Peter Rhodes casting in their lots with the scattered settlers, and, in 1832, Rhodes built the first saw-mill in the county. As there was an abundance of timber at that time, it did a great amount of business. The next settlers were James Ramsey, Selah Bennum, Obed Martin and Isaac Guffy, who came with their families in 1832. In 1833 there was a further addition of the families of Samuel Ramsey, James Nicholas, Thomas Watkins, David Roberts, Jackson Miller, Samuel McMullen, John and Joseph Tegarden and Henry Tegarden. In 1834 William Guffy, John Watkins, Henry Davis, John R. Jones, Richard Richards, David Crabill and Joseph Ford, and, in 1835, John Deffenbaugh and perhaps a few others.

The township took on a temporary organization in 1832 or 1833. This organization included what afterwards became the townships of Monroe, Pleasant, Union and Sugar Creek. The first township officers were as follows: Obed Martin, justice of the peace; James Nicholas, later served as the second justice of the peace; Samuel Ramsey, constable; George Niell, William Patrick and Jackson Miller, trustees; Benjamin Clevenger, treasurer, and James Nicholas, clerk.

At the gubernatorial election in October, 1834, Sugar Creek township polled thirty-four votes, and at the same election in 1879, just forty-five years later, there were two hundred and eighty-on votes cast.

The Sugar Creek township officials are: Justices of the peace, R. W. Jones and David Jones; trustees, John F. Miller, Morton Wood and Will-

iam Sakemiller; clerk, D. R. Hinkle; treasurer, B. F. Smith; constables, S. L. Griffith and Walter Salsbury.

#### VAUGHNSVILLE.

The first town laid out in the township was Monterey, in 1847. This was platted by Eli Clevenger and took in all that part of the town lying south of what is now known as the Vaughnsville and Columbus Grove road.

That part of the town lying north of this road was platted the same year by D. C. Vaughn, who called it Vaughnsville. Eventually, the name Monterey was dropped and Vaughnsville now includes both plats. Vaughnsville has a bank, an elevator, saw-mill, and stores which carry well-selected stocks of goods. The town is beautifully located, lying on the east side of Sugar creek, and is surrounded by a prosperous and thriving farming community. The farmers are well-to-do, lands are under a high state of cultivation and fine buildings indicate prosperity. Vaughnsville has never been incorporated, as it is a good trading point for the township and does not see the need of corporate government. A consolidated high school affords excellent educational opportunities for the children of the township. The Northern Ohio railroad gives it a ready outlet to foreign markets.

#### RIMER.

Rimer was laid out in 1881 by James W. Rimer, for D. P. Rimer, the proprietor. It is situated on the east bank of the Ottawa river, and on the Northern Ohio railroad. This town was first called Roxburg, but later the name was changed for that of the original owner. The schools of this township were consolidated and this necessitated the building of a fourteen-thousand-dollar school building, which was located at Rimer. This is a very prosperous little village.

#### JONES CITY.

Jones City was platted in 1890, at the intersection of the Northern railroad and the Ohio Electric line. It was laid out for R. W. and Ella Jones by Evan H. Jones, surveyor, and from whom it derived its name.

## CENTER POINT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Center Point Agricultural Society was organized in 1905. In the fall of that year the farmers in Sugar Creek township had an enormous crop of clover seed to be hulled. No huller was in the community, and, as winter was coming on, it looked as though the seed was going to waste. Twenty farmers formed a partnership and bought a huller, and in this way saved the crop of clover seed. This was the beginning of the organization, and, since it worked to such good success on the first experiment, it was tried not only on harvesting the grain, but also on selling it and buying provisions. A constitution was formed and by-laws were adopted. It is not an incorporation, neither is it a secret organization, but the members are taken in by a vote of the society. Its objects at present are to promulgate a helpful, sociable and friendly feeling among its members and to promote their financial interests by buying in large quantities and saving a needless waste. "We do not intend to crush the dealer in the small town, but to make life easier for him by buying in large amounts, paying cash and saving him the needless worry over bad debts."

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## UNION TOWNSHIP.

The first settlers in what is now known as Union township were Abram Sarber and family and Joseph Clevenger and family, in the year 1831. The next year, Joseph and George Clevenger, with their families, settled here. In 1833 this little group was swelled by the addition of seven families: Adam Sarber, Jacob Clevenger, Jenkin Hughes, William Clevenger, Samuel Gander and Daniel Rimer. In 1834 there was a further addition to the township of the families of Moses Lee, Robert McCracken, William Philips, Isaac McCracken, Sheldon Guthrie, Arthur E. Martin and Joseph Miller.

In 1832 the township took on a temporary organization. The officers were appointed by an order from the court, and the township was organized into one road district, with John Guffy as the first supervisor. The following were the first officers of the newly organized township: Moses Lee, William Clevenger and Adam Sarber as trustees and Abram Sarber as clerk. They held their meeting on March 2, 1835, to issue an order for the division of the township into three road districts, and the electors were notified by advertisement by the clerk "of the town meeting" for the election of township officers "as required by law." At this same meeting they

issued orders of one dollar and fifty cents to each of the trustees for services; also an order to Abram Sarber for seventy-five cents for his services as clerk for the past year.

On April 2, 1835, an election was held at the home of William Philips and the following officers were elected: William Clevenger, Adam Sarber and Richard Lee, trustees; Abram Sarber, clerk; William Clevenger, treasurer; John Guffey, George Clevenger and Johnston Crawford, supervisors; Moses Lee and Winchton Risley, overseers of the poor; F. C. Fitch and Winchton Risley, fence viewers; William Clevenger and Moses Lee, justices of the peace; James Lee and Henry Guffey, constables.

The first tax was levied on March 7, 1836, which was one mill on the dollar. The expenditures for the year 1836 were fifteen dollars and forty cents; receipts for taxes were four dollars and forty cents.

On September 10, 1836, the trustees met and divided the township into two school districts. District number one comprised the south part of the township, two and one-half miles wide by six miles long. District number two was the north part and was three and one-half miles wide by six miles long.

#### KALIDA.

Kalida, the first town laid out in Union township, was platted in 1834. On June 24, 1834, Moses Lee purchased the first lot and built the first cabin in the village. His son, H. G. Lee, cut the first log. In the same year Sheldon Guthrie built the first frame house. This was sided with clapboards and in later years was quite a relic of the past and a monument to its builder. Sheldon Guthrie established the first store in the same year.

Putnam county was created by an act of Congress passed January 3, 1834. A provision was contained in this same act whereby a town director should be appointed, whose duty it was to select and survey one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 5, township 1 south, range 6 east, in Putnam county, and, under the direction of the county commissioners, lay out a town, and that the town so laid out should be the county seat.

The town director, with the commissioners, were to sell the lots and from the proceeds, less two hundred dollars, which was to be paid to the state, the county should receive money to pay the expenses of the county.

On May 5, 1834, Abram Sarber was appointed by the court of common pleas as town director and Thomas Gray, William Priddy, Samuel Myers were appointed county commissioners; F. C. Fitch, county surveyor. The town was laid out and named Kalida (The Beautiful) and became the





COMMITTEES OF MID-WINTER FAIR, VAUGHNSVILLE, DECEMBER, 1913.



seat of justice of the county. For the first year the court of common pleas was held at the home of Abram Sarber.

The town was incorporated on February 16, 1839, by an act of the Legislature and the mayor and council were elected. In 1843 corporate powers seem to have been too heavy for the citizens to bear and on March 14 of that year they asked the Legislature to repeal the act of incorporation, retaining the council in office for one year, "to settle the business of the corporation," and at the expiration of their term of office they were again elected for three years longer, or until 1847. The next articles of incorporation were not taken out until 1857.

Such prominent men as John Morris, Alonzo Skinner, John McClure, Levi Rice, T. E. Cunningham, William H. Ball, Benjamin F. Metcalf, James McKenzie, attorneys; R. W. Thrift and C. M. Godfrey, physicians; C. H. Rice, merchant, settled in Kalida between 1843 and 1848. It would be hard to find an equal number of men starting together who have made a better record.

The first court house was built in 1835, and a second brick one was completed in 1840. A fire in the recorder's office about 1862 injured and destroyed many of the records and in the winter of 1864-65 the court house was entirely destroyed by fire. The old records were destroyed, but the new and transcribed ones were saved.

The town grew slowly until 1840, when the increase in the number of settlers in the county and the opening of many farms caused a marked increase in the population. Its growth was steady until 1866, when the county seat was removed to Ottawa. This was a great reverse for the prosperous little village and for a time it seemed to stagnate, but the Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western and the Columbus, Lima & Milwaukee railroads were constructed and this later helped to offset the loss of the county seat.

At present Kalida has one of the Odenweller elevators, a bank, newspaper, modern high school and the business houses are modern in every respect. In 1910 the population was seven hundred and seventy. Situated in a good agricultural community, this town is sure to have a steady growth. The present officers are: Mayor, Guy R. Coit; clerk, Samuel Stevens; treasurer, Louis Kline; marshal, Homer Davidson; councilmen, L. Vonder Embse, Charles Veach, Ed Rower, A. G. Underwood, J. M. Rimer, Joseph Foltz; trustees of public affairs, Charles Veach and Guy R. Coit.

The township officials are: Justices of the peace, Frank Logan and J. F. Stauffer; trustees, J. G. Crawford, J. J. Gerdeman and Joseph Siefker;

clerk, William Rambo; treasurer, Charles C. Borman; constables, Jefferson Row and Stanley Godwin; ditch superintendent, J. Price Jones.

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#### VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP.

Van Buren township was not organized by the county commissioners until 1843, having been known as North Blanchard for ten years, or from the time Blanchard township was organized. It was slow in being settled, due to the extreme swampiness of much of the land, a fact which is set forth in a striking manner in the field notes of James Heaton, who surveyed it in 1821. He says: "While surveying this township, I dug five wells twenty feet deep, for water, the swamp water being unfit for use. At some future day this swamp will probably be drained, as it may be in four or five different directions. The soil in this township averages as good second rate; but at present the land is so wet and miry, and there are such masses of fallen timbers, that there appears to be nothing inviting to the agriculturist to settle in it." If this same surveyor could see the broad and well-tilled acres of today, he would doubtless be surprised at the changes which time has wrought. Practically all of the once swampy land has been reclaimed and now fields of waving grain may be seen, where formerly swamps and morasses reigned supreme.

The year 1835 saw the first permanent settler locate in the township and Abraham Baughman will go down in Van Buren township as the first man to brave the terrors of the malaria and ague within its limits. He was followed shortly afterward by Hiram Hull, John Broadsword, William Killpatrick, Ludwig Hull, James Davis, Elvington Hull and James Reed. These sterling pioneers made several efforts to effect a township organization before 1843, but failed each time, because they could not muster a sufficient number of voters. It was not until Abraham Baughman, the first settler, offered his personal bond, guaranteeing the county against any probable loss, that the commissioners granted the request of the petitioners. That the township was very sparsely settled is very evident from the report of the first election, on February 18, 1843. At that time only twelve votes were cast, and, so history records, only nine of these represented actual settlers, the other three being imported for the occasion. There were barely enough voters to fill all the offices and it will be noticed that some men held more than one office. The first officers included the following: Abraham Baughman, Elvington A. Hull and John Davis, trustees; Marcus Thrapp, clerk;

Elvington A. Hull, treasurer; Jacob Nemire and Adam Krites, overseers of the poor; Abraham Baughman and David Tyner, fence viewers; Lemuel Hickerson, constable. At a subsequent election, May 20, 1843, Elvington A. Hull was elected the first justice of the peace.

The trustees were anxious to provide educational facilities for the few children, as is evidenced by their meeting, on March 6, 1843, for the purpose of dividing the township into two school districts, No. 1 being the east half of the township, and No. 2, the west half. At an election held on April 3, 1843, more officers were elected and the two townships divided into two road districts, with Burdett Hull and John Davis as supervisors. The road districts coincided with the school districts.

#### LEIPSIC.

Leipsic was laid out and platted by James E. Creighton, on January 26, 1857. The first ground platted into lots in the corporate limits of the present town was that lying east of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad, and both north and south of the Nickel Plate. This village first bore the name of Creighton, in honor of its founder, but it was incorporated under the name of Leipsic. On August 29, 1859, Joseph Swartz laid out a plat of land east of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton and called it Leipsic station. The following year Mr. Swartz laid out an addition to the same plat, these two plats being recorded under the name Leipsic.

The growth of this village began in the year 1859, when the first train run over the Dayton & Michigan railroad. The first train passing over this railroad signaled the denizens of an almost impenetrable forest. By the construction of this railroad, the outlet for the timber and other products of this country was assured, and settlers began to arrive, thus opening up one of the greatest sections in the state. The growth of this section is a marvel of progress and productiveness. One of the potent factors in the prosperity of this section and the impetus which stirred early settlers was the Buckeye Stave Company and too much praise cannot be given this company for their excellent work in making Leipsic one of the foremost towns of the county.

The early settlers in this village were J. B. Swartz, Wellington Hurd, David McClung, C. W. Askam and wife and Al Tingle. In 1860 S. and W. P. Young and D. G. Leffler settled here. The following year Mrs. John Foltz, G. D. Foltz, Jacob Werner and Absalom Foulk risked their fortunes with the progress of the new town. In 1863 A. F. Easton and wife, T. J. Werner, Samuel Waters and wife, and in 1865 J. H. Askam, Andrew C.

Askam and F. Leffler, completing the list of early settlers and pioneer residents. These men of brawn and courage had placed on the map of the country a thriving little village with the strength to combat in the field of commerce.

Chief among the early industries which operated in Leipsic are: The Buckeye Stave Company; the Leipsic flouring-mill, which was erected in the year 1872 by W. C. Miller; the Leipsic planing-mill, which was owned and operated by Messrs. O. E. Townsend and John Zahrends, and the following companies: Leipsic machine works, A. F. Easton & Son, the Leipsic brick yard, tile yard, creamery, and two good elevators.

The churches and schools of this village are ranked with the best and have been discussed to a fuller degree in another chapter.

This town has been visited by quite a few disastrous fires, but the citizens were undaunted by these reversals of fortune and immediately set to work replacing them with better and larger structures. The town stands as a monument to its own prosperity and growth.

The different business enterprises at present are: The Leffler Hotel, which was erected at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars and is an emblem of architectural progress and a monument to his memory; the Bank of Leipsic, the Temco Company, R. T. Terry, tile manufacturer, and many other industries. The stores cater to all the wants of the citizens of the town and also to the country trade.

The present officials are: Mayor, E. V. Burns; clerk, C. J. Erickson; treasurer, Earl Andrews; marshal, Charles McKeen; councilmen, W. T. Starling, W. D. Hickey, Dallas Kirk, J. B. Weber, L. D. Wendle, Joseph Faber; trustees of public affairs, W. A. Bell, J. A. Parsons, C. W. Fogle.

#### THE TEMCO ELECTRIC MOTOR COMPANY.

The Temco Electric Motor Company, an Ohio corporation, with its main factory and office at Leipsic, was organized and chartered in the fall of 1911. The Temco Company was successor to the American Foundry Company, which had been doing a general foundry business up to that time.

The name, Temco, is derived from the first letters of the name "The Electric Motor Company." This company was organized for the purpose of manufacturing electric portable tools and small motors. The line originally consisted of electric portable drills, grinders, buffers, polishers and small fractional-horse-power motors. Later, automobile accessories, such as shock absorbers, electric generators, ignitors and starters, were added to



LEIPSIC IN 1877.



LEIPSIC IN 1914.





the original line of general machinery. The Temco Company has the distinction of building the first and original shock absorber for the Ford cars.

In the beginning, the equipment consisted of six or eight machines, which furnished employment to a similar number of men. It covered about twenty-five hundred feet of floor space, all on the ground floor. With the rapid increase in the business, as their products became known, more machinery and greater floor space were added, and the pay-roll was increased, also. At present it covers about thirty-two thousand square feet of floor space, in a two- and three-story brick plant, using electric motors aggregating about two hundred and fifty horse power and furnishing employment for one hundred and fifty to two hundred men and women.

The power and light for the factory are furnished by electricity, each machine having an individual motor, with silent chain drive. No overhead line-shaft is used in any part of the plant. Every requirement of the state is adhered to in reducing the possibility of accidents to a minimum. The plant is steam-heated throughout, from its own boiler, placed in the plant for that purpose alone. Wash-rooms and coat-rooms are provided on the first and second floors. The plant has had a steady growth from the beginning, and, judging from the success which the sale of its products has met with, the Temco Electric Motor Company will soon be numbered among the leading manufacturing plants of northwestern Ohio. Their products are shipped to every part of the globe, the principal importing countries for their goods being South America, England, France, Australia, Russia, Asia and Africa.

#### BUCKEYE STAVE COMPANY.

The Buckeye Stave Company was one of the potent factors in the advancement of Leipsic in a material way. This company has grown from a humble beginning in Leipsic to an enormous business, which extends from northern Michigan to the Gulf states and west to the Pacific coast states, and gives employment to a large force of men.

This company was organized in 1886, with the following stockholders: John Edwards, W. W. Edwards, I. N. Bushong, J. S. Lenhart and D. L. Critten, all of whom were residents of Leipsic. At the time of its organization the company controlled twelve factories, located at Leipsic, Columbus Grove and Continental, and employed one hundred men.

In 1887 this company purchased the Bank of Leipsic and in 1890 they placed a stave factory in Pleasant Bend; in 1891 they built a factory at Kalida and also at Avis; in 1892 the Elm Center stave factory was pur-

chased and placed under their control, and the same year a factory was located at Mancelona, Michigan, but this was removed to Gladstone, Michigan, in 1894. The Continental Bank was organized in 1891, and at present has responsibilities amounting to one million dollars.

The growth of this company has been very rapid, and in 1895, after 'only nine years' time, they employed one thousand men, with a yearly payroll of one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars and a paid-up capital stock of five hundred and thirty thousand dollars. Their holdings include extensive timber and farm lands in this and other states, and the growth of the business has far exceeded the hopes of the promoters. In 1888 the interests of Lenhart were purchased, and in 1893 Joseph H. Edwards purchased a one-fourth interest. The company has grown to be the largest of its kind in the world. It has always been liberal to its employees and fair in its dealings, and has contributed liberally to public and private improvement and all works for the betterment of the community. The company owns a large amount of farm land at the present time, which it has improved and placed under cultivation, after removing the timber. This company stands today with its many business enterprises in the full confidence of the business world.

#### BELMORE (MONTGOMERYVILLE).

Montgomeryville was laid out and platted in 1862 by Deputy County Surveyor John Shakely, for Wesley G. Montgomery, acting under the power of attorney for Benjamin and Mary Ann Plummer as proprietors. The village is situated in the northern part of Van Buren township, on the Dayton & Michigan railroad. The original plat of seventeen lots was laid on the eastern side of the railroad and the town took its name from the surveyor. About the year 1868 the name was changed to Belmore, as the postoffice had given that name and two names caused quite a little confusion.

Additions to the village were laid by the following proprietors: In 1869, the Dayton & Michigan railroad, Knox and Speaker; in 1874, John H. George and Alexander Williamson. Other additions followed later. The village was incorporated in 1882, with the following officers: O. Judson, mayor; P. L. Baker, clerk; W. Winkler, treasurer; Theodore Ludwig, marshal; A. J. Showers, D. Ensminger, J. H. Ensminger, W. Mull, Nimrod Speaker and I. B. Hathaway, councilmen.

Although the town has had no large manufactures or any natural resources to aid in its growth, still it is a substantial country town and the stores do a good business. The farmers in this locality are accommodated

with the stores which handle all the different commodities and cater to the farmers' trade.

The present officers are: Mayor, C. R. Blauvelt; clerk, Kenneth R. Casteel; treasurer, William Glaser; marshal, Mathias Voglepohl; councilmen, W. E. Saul, Henry Rader, L. M. Hickerson, F. E. Critchet, I. E. Blauvelt and Lafe Fox.

The population in 1910 was two hundred and ninety-eight.

#### SPITZER (TOWNWOOD).

The village of Spitzer, located on the Nickel Plate railroad, four miles east of Leipsic, was platted by Aaron Overbech, county surveyor, in 1886. The town was laid out for Howard C. Tinkham, but was named in honor of the Spitzer Brothers, of Toledo, Ohio, who were largely interested in lands adjoining the village. Owing to the fact that there was another town of the same name in Ohio, it was changed to Townwood.

#### WARD.

Ward was the name given to a little town located on the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad, but was never platted and at present is only a railroad siding.

The present officials of Van Buren township are: Justices of the peace, Jacob Leffler, T. J. Huffman, J. E. Fisher and Nimrod Speaker; trustees, James Robinson, E. B. Limmonds and H. H. Montooth; clerk, Thomas J. Shuly; treasurer, E. C. Kuntz; constables, Joseph Butler and Daniel Butler.

## CHAPTER VII.

### HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION.

Prior to the year 1820 the territory now embraced in Putnam county was inhabited by but few white people and by a limited number of Indians, a remnant of the Ottawa tribe, who made Tawa village their abode. A reservation of five miles square, consisting of nearly all of what is now Ottawa township, had been granted them, but not in perpetuity, as, by a treaty entered into in 1830, another reservation was given to them in Kansas and they were deported to that territory. However, a few of them remained in this locality and county for several years afterwards, not desiring to go to their new reservation. It was not until the years from 1831 to 1834 that emigration of any large number of people to this county occurred. During these years many settlers located along Blanchard river and other streams through the county.

In connection with the early navigation of Blanchard river it may be said that in the government surveys the Blanchard is designated as a navigable stream and that it is still so designated on all government charts, but no one has ever come across "the old citizen" who said that he was frequently disturbed by the blowing of the whistles of the steamboats passing up and down the river.

### EARLY MARKETING FACILITIES.

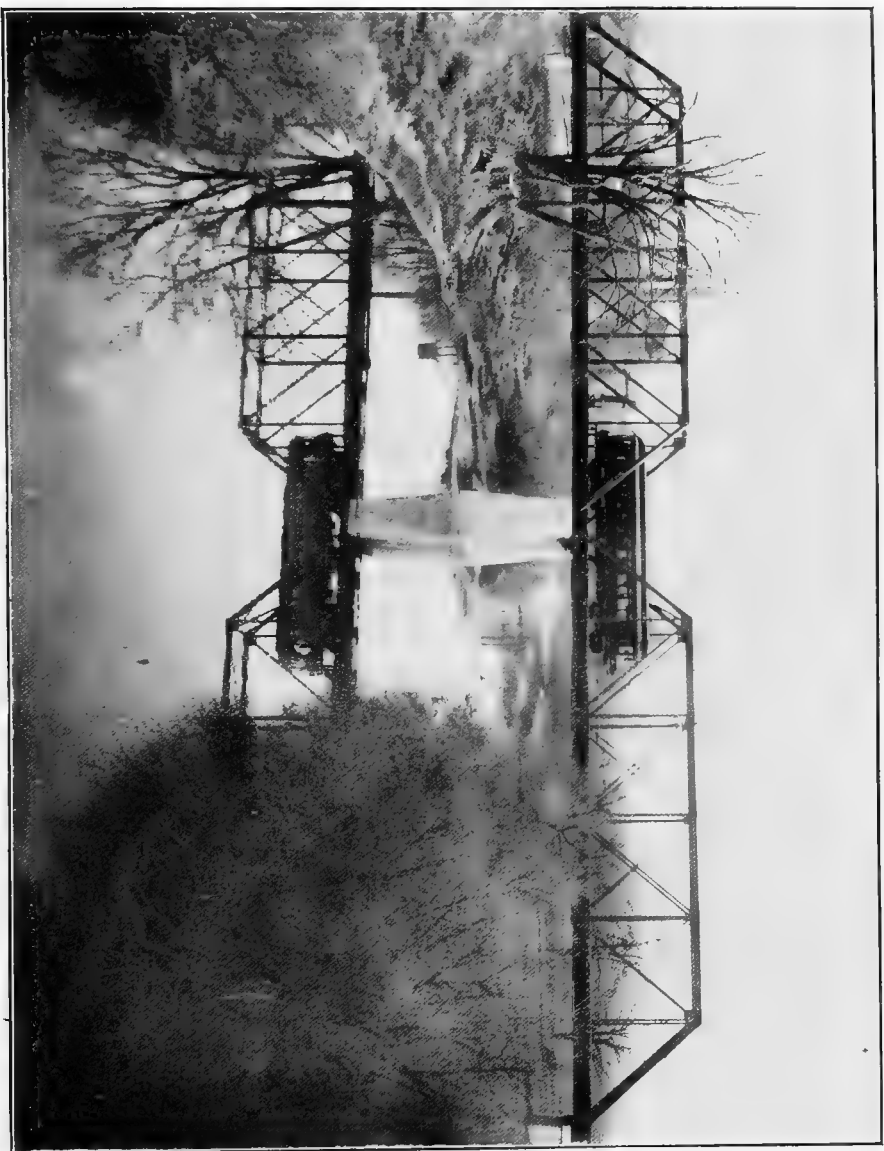
The great problem of these early settlers was the method by which they could market their limited amount of farm products and thus secure needed articles necessary for their welfare. While their surplus products were not great, they were sufficient for their limited wants. As the roads at that time were but trails along the rivers, which could only be traveled at certain times of the year by teams drawing wagons, the "boy on horseback" was the chief master of transportation of what wheat and corn was taken to the "grinder" to be converted into flour and meal. When the trails were passable in the summer and fall, trips were made to Lower Sandusky, which at that time was an outlet to the lake, trails to Maumee or Perrysburg not then being opened.

Upon the completion of the canal in 1845, a new outlet was established





IN THE PALMY DAYS OF THE OLD CANAL.



INTERURBAN BRIDGE AT OTTAWA.





by way of the river to Defiance and thence by canal to Toledo. This opened navigation on the Blanchard river and a lively business was transacted by the conveyance of the surplus grain, pork, butter, eggs, etc., to Defiance. For this purpose a small boat, called a pirogue, was used and those who possessed these crafts made the business quite profitable. A number of these pirogues were forty feet in length and three to four feet in breadth and would carry a great amount of grain and other products. The individuals who owned these small crafts were expert mariners and, notwithstanding the dangers lurking in the river at that time, which was filled with drift and hidden snags, comparatively few mishaps occurred to these early mariners of the Blanchard. However, now and then they "had troubles of their own," as the following incident shows, which we copy from the *Defiance Democrat*, of April, 1852, and which refers to one of our most prominent and most worthy former citizens:

"J. P. Simon, of Putnam county, recovered a judgment of ten dollars and costs against the canal boat 'Gold Digger,' before Squire Bouton, on Wednesday, for damages done to his pirogue, through carelessness or inattention of the hands on the 'Gold Digger.' This settles the question that the Blanchard river boatmen and others with their pirogues, at our river docks, are entitled to some protection and that canal boatmen must be more cautious."

#### ADVENT OF THE RAILROADS.

The opening of the Mad River Railroad, the first in the state, from Dayton to Sandusky City, in 1849, and the subsequent construction of a strap-iron railroad from Findlay to Carey to connect with the Mad River Railroad, gave the people of the eastern part of this county another outlet to the lakes, and the public highways being made more passable, diverted trade to Findlay, nearly all surplus products being marketed at that place.

In 1859 the Dayton & Michigan Railroad was completed through the county, and a new artery of trade established which furnished an outlet for the greater part of the county and did more than any other thing toward the development and growth of the county. This road, now known as the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton, ran its first train on July 4, 1859, from Lima to Toledo. The other steam roads commenced operation through the county on the following dates: Nickle Plate, July 4, 1881; Clover Leaf, September, 1877, from Delphos to Dupont; Northern Ohio, October, 1881; Findlay, Fort Wayne & Western, fall of 1888; Kalida & Defiance, 1899; Detroit, Toledo & Ironton.

The following is a statement of the mileage and valuation of the steam and electric lines operating in Putnam county, as well as of the telegraph and telephone lines:

Railroad.	Mileage.	Valuation.
Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton (main line)-----	19. 8	\$851,810
Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western -----	24.11	408,590
Columbus, Lima & Milwaukee -----	11.23	149,470
Detroit, Toledo & Ironton -----	19.58	206,730
New York Central & St. Louis-----	24. 6	1,611,840
Ohio Electric (Toledo branch)-----	20. 3	
Ohio Electric (Defiance branch)-----	22.41	
Northern Ohio -----	23.42	565,850
Toledo, St. Louis & Western-----	20.24	175,160
Total -----	185.69	\$3,969,450

#### TELEPHONES AND TELEGRAPH (LONG DISTANCE).

Western Union—miles of wire-----	1,027.55	\$61,560
Ohio Telephone and Telegraph-----	28.02	2,800
Ohio Postal Telegraph and Cable-----	233.30	11,450

#### TELEPHONES (LOCAL).

There are some thirty local telephone companies in Putnam county. Some of these are large companies, while a few of them have only a very short stretch of wire. The following is a complete list:

Name of Company.	Miles of Wire.	Valu- ation.	Town or Twp.
Ottawa Farmers Mutual -----	168	\$10,390	Ottawa
Receivers, Central Union-----	174	10,380	Ottawa
Putnam Telephone Company-----	2,416	93,710	Putnam Co.
Miller City Farmers Mutual-----	117	2,270	Miller City
Glandorf Mutual -----	70	2,600	Glandorf
Continental Farmers Mutual-----	32	7,000	Continental
Pandora Mutual -----	198	4,650	Pandora
Columbus Grove Mutual-----	323	8,150	Columbus Grove
Ft. Jennings Farmers Mutual-----	189	4,800	Ft. Jennings

Name of Company.	Miles of Wire.	Valu- ation.	Town or Twp.
Rimer Mutual -----	45	2,300	Rimer
Delphos Home Telephone -----	10	310	Jennings Tp.
Elida Mutual -----	10	410	Jen. & Sugar Cr.
Vaughnsville -----	58	2,630	Sugar Creek Tp.
Rushmore Mutual -----	13	800	Rushmore
Leipsic Farmers Mutual -----	25	7,500	Leipsic Tp.
Bluffton -----	36	1,440	Riley Tp.
New Bavaria Farmers Mutual -----	16	370	Liberty & Palmer
Deshler Farmers Mutual -----	6	150	Van Buren
Gilboa Farmers Mutual -----	45	3,400	Blanchard
Bluffton Farmers Mutual -----	16	540	Riley
Cloverdale -----	19	3,190	Cloverdale
Kalida Mutual -----	44	5,720	Kalida
Ottoville Telephone Company -----	2	1,890	Ottoville
Citizens Exchange Telephone -----	1	80	Liberty
Farmers Mutual Telephone Company -----	10	3,340	Belmore
Farmers Mutual Telephone Company -----	57	2,100	North Creek
Farmers Mutual Telephone Company -----	11	3,000	Dupont
Total -----	4,111	\$184,120	

## CHAPTER VIII.

### CHURCHES OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

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#### COLUMBUS GROVE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

A Methodist class was organized two miles south of Columbus Grove, at the home of Philip Hopper, Sr., in October, 1839. His house continued to be a preaching place until 1853, when services were held in a school house, later a public hall, and in the United Brethren and Presbyterian churches in the town of Columbus Grove until 1869. Then a lot was given by Father Hooper and during the pastorates of Philip Lemasters, Harrison Maltbie and J. C. Clemons, a frame church was built. The congregation continued to worship in this building until 1891, when the present brick church was erected, under the pastorate of the Rev. Alexander Harmount.

Until 1868 Columbus Grove was an appointment with the St. John, Elida and Ottawa societies, but at that date it was made a separate charge. It so remained until 1903, when it was again made a station.

The first class was organized under the joint pastorate of Elmer Day and Peter Hollopeter. The following persons were members of the class and, therefore, charter members of the Columbus Grove church, namely: Philip and Rachel Hooper, their children, Mary, Julia, Rachel, John and Elmira; George and Mary Stevenson and their children, Mary, Enoch and Rachel; Adam and Loruma Van Meter, and Mrs. B. Kliver.

The records of the pastors from 1839 to 1860 is not complete, but among the preachers of that period were Jacob Albright, John Kellam, Messrs. Hookbrick and DeLisle. Since 1860 those who have served the charge are: G. O. McPherson, Adam C. Barnes, B. B. Powell, William Deal, Josiah F. Crooks, Philip Lemasters, Harrison Maltbie, J. C. Clemons, B. J. Hoadley, George Matthews, W. H. Scoles, Reuben Rauch, John M. Mills, Peter Biggs, L. O. Cook, A. Harmount, N. B. C. Love, D. F. Helms, William Hook, Jacob Baumgardner, M. C. Howey, W. J. Green, J. W. Gibson, Daniel Carter and the present pastor, C. M. Monosmith.

From a small beginning, seventy-six years ago, this church has grown until it now has a membership of nearly three hundred. A subscription has

been raised for a church building and the work on this structure will soon begin.

#### METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT LEIPSIC.

The Leipsic Methodist Episcopal church, one of the strong and aggressive churches in the old Central Ohio conference, was organized about the year 1870. Most of the members of the newly organized class came from the Methodist church of West Leipsic.

For nearly fifteen years the faithful men and women of this church worshipped in the school house and in the Lutheran and Presbyterian churches of the town. For a number of years this church was a part of the Ottawa circuit, and later was attached to the Gilboa circuit. In 1884, under the pastorate of the Rev. J. S. G. Reeder, the contract was let for a new church by the board of trustees, W. W. Edwards, J. H. Edwards, S. B. Webber, Lorenzo Fulk and W. Galogby, the contract price being three thousand, five hundred and sixty-five dollars. This was completed and dedicated in 1885, under the pastorate of the Rev. J. R. Rushbridge.

The society prospered and grew so rapidly that in ten short years a larger and more commodious building was needed, and in 1895 the congregation was led in a new church enterprise by the pastor, Rev. A. A. Thomas. In 1896 the present beautiful church, with a seating capacity of nearly one thousand two hundred, was dedicated, at a cost of about twenty thousand dollars.

The following ministers have served the church: Jason Young, O. E. Palmer, J. F. Davies, James Long, Jeremiah McCane, Rev. Mr. Maltbie, J. C. Miller, R. M. Culver, W. E. Seuman, Rev. Mr. Reeder, J. R. Rushbridge, George Matthews, A. A. Thomas, George B. Wiltsie, Daniel Carter, W. J. Hagerman, Jacob Baumgardner, Edwin L. Davis and C. W. Barnes, the present pastor.

The Leipsic church has grown from a small class until now, at the age of forty-five years, it has a membership of over three hundred and fifty. It has been represented in the general conference three times, once by John Edwards and twice by Mrs. Florence D. Richards. It is characterized by its large missionary and educational contributions and for its benevolent spirit.

#### METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT GILBOA.

The Methodist Episcopal church in Gilboa was organized in 1833, with the following charter members: Moses Williams and wife, Sarah Crafus, Lou-

isa Gensinger, H. W. Montgomery and Samuel McDonald. It was connected with the McComb circuit at first, but was later changed to the Leipsic circuit, and afterwards it became the head of the Gilboa circuit, which at first embraced Pleasant Chapel, Shawtown and Pandora. In 1911 Gilboa was made a station, with the Rev. E. H. Snow as pastor. The ministers who have served the church are: Eli Myers, S. R. Colgan, J. W. Shultz, William J. Green, E. S. Keeler, J. B. Gottschall, J. H. Carter, Samuel Given, L. B. Smith, M. J. Nash, J. W. Miller, E. H. Snow and C. E. Bowley.

#### METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, CONTINENTAL.

The Methodist Episcopal congregation at Continental was organized in 1895. The adherents of this faith at Continental had desired a meeting place of their own for some time but were not able to get the proposition started. The church building was constructed at a cost of three thousand dollars. This is a very pretty frame church structure. The members have also constructed a parsonage, at a cost of one thousand dollars.

The church is in a very prosperous condition at the present time, with a total membership of one hundred and forty. Rev. J. D. Parker is the present minister and through his efforts is largely due the present good standing of the church in this community.

#### NORTH CREEK METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Rev. J. D. Parker also serves the Methodist church at North Creek. The church building at this place consists of a frame structure, which was erected at a cost of one thousand two hundred dollars. The membership at present numbers twenty. Although this church congregation is smaller than some of its sister congregations, it is on a firm basis and the membership is increasing.

#### CLOVERDALE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The Cloverdale Methodist Episcopal church has a congregation at present of twenty-seven members. The present frame church building was erected at a cost of one thousand two hundred dollars. Rev. J. D. Parker serves this congregation from Continental.

## TRINITY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, OTTAWA.

The Methodist Episcopal church at Ottawa was organized in 1855, with Rev. John A. Shannon as pastor. The first church building was a brick structure, built in 1858, the brick for the building being made by M. Gallaway. The Ottawa society was organized as a station in 1869 by the Rev. L. C. Webster, who was presiding elder. Rev. C. W. Miller was pastor in charge. About ten years ago plans were talked of for the erection of a new church building and the matter agitated until, on August 8, 1899, the corner stone of the new edifice was laid. On July 8, 1900, the new church was dedicated to the service of Almighty God by Bishop David H. Moore.

The names of the pastors from 1869 are as follows: 1869-70, G. W. Miller; 1870-71, H. M. Shaffer and John Wilson; 1871-73, Jason Young; 1873-74, H. S. Bradley and S. L. Beiler; 1874-76, J. W. Miller; 1876-78, H. E. Pilcher; 1878-79, Albert Foster; 1879-80, Joseph Ayers; 1880-83, Caleb Hill; 1883-86, R. R. Bryan; 1886-88, Joseph Ayers; 1888-93, William S. Philpott; 1893, Caleb Hill; 1893-96, A. S. Watkins; 1896-98, J. Williams; 1898-1901, C. B. Holding; 1902-03, Charles W. Sullivan; 1908, J. W. Donnan; 1909, C. B. Cuppett; 1910, S. Baumgardner; 1912, F. E. Higbie; 1914, E. J. Webster; 1915, James William Gibson.

## DUPONT METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The congregation of the Methodist Episcopal church at Dupont is also served as a charge from Continental. Rev. J. D. Parker serves this church along with the congregations at Cloverdale, North Creek, and also Continental, as was previously mentioned. This church has a membership of fifty-eight active workers. The present frame building was erected at a cost of one thousand five hundred dollars.

Although the town of Dupont is not as prosperous and flourishing as it has been, still this little church has held together its band of followers and the prosperity which the congregation experiences is fully merited by their untiring efforts and also the efforts of the minister.

## KALIDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The beginning of Presbyterianism in Kalida dates back about seventy years, the first organization appearing in 1845. At that time Oliver Tolbert, Sr., Joseph Tingle, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Rice, Mr. and Mrs. Coulter,

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Crawford, Dr. Robert Thrift and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain, Mrs. Jane Hughes and Isaac and Robert McCracken met and formally organized a Presbyterian church at Kalida. They met in private homes and in the old court house until a frame building for church purposes was erected in 1852. The building erected in 1852 is still standing and has the honor of being the oldest church building now standing within the limits of Putnam county. The timbers are of oak and walnut and the building bids fair to stand for many years to come. The dedicatory services, in 1852, were in charge of the Rev. Thomas Elcock. The ministers from the beginning down to the present time are as follows: Revs. Elcock, Brice, Emerson, Bedem, Cooper, Fuller, Echolls, Hyatt, McGee, Adams and Williams. The church now enrolls about eighty members and is one of the most flourishing Presbyterian churches in the county. A Sabbath school is maintained, under the superintendency of A. F. Skinner. The president of the Christian Endeavor is K. Murray.

#### LEIPSIC PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The history of the first Presbyterian church in Leipsic dates back to about 1873. Although this church was organized some years prior to this time, the session records were burned and there is no mention of its early history except in the report of Lima presbytery in 1873, but it was probably organized by the Maumee presbytery. The following are charter members and early members of the church: Mrs. Elizabeth Foltz, Solomon Young and wife, Charles McDonald and wife, Walter Day and wife, John Sturgeon and wife, William Barton and wife, John Askam and wife and James R. Lafferty and wife.

The present brick church building was erected in 1873 at a cost of three thousand dollars, on a centrally located lot near the present high school building. It is modern and thoroughly equipped in every respect, with steam heat, electric lights and a new piano, which has recently been purchased for the use of the church and Sunday school.

The following ministers have served the church: Rev. Perry C. Baldwin; Rev. Winfield Hill, 1878-79; Rev. D. W. Cooper, 1880-83; Rev. I. N. Thomas, 1886-87; Rev. Adam Schafer, 1891-92; Rev. J. L. Grim, 1894-98; Rev. David Demster, 1899-1900; Rev. Harry C. Cunningham, 1901-02; Rev. W. H. Hyatt, 1905-08; Rev. A. S. Kerr, 1910-11. Rev. E. Layport, D. D., the present minister, began his work on October 1, 1911.

The church saw the greatest years of its prosperity under the lead-



ership of Rev. David Demster and Rev. Harry C. Cunningham. During their pastorate the church membership numbered one hundred and forty. The present membership of the church is sixty-five. The church has maintained a very prosperous Sunday school throughout its entire existence and at present Charles Henry is at the helm. He is ably assisted by a faithful and competent corps of officers and teachers. The church has been weakened at times by removals and deaths, yet it has always maintained its harmonious and prosperous standing in the village. Some of the leading families of Leipsic have been enrolled under its banners and the church at present is in a prosperous condition and is doing a splendid work with an ever-increasing membership. The session is composed of Thomas H. Rower, H. F. Wendell, Orville Young, Charles Henry, Herman Montouth, Hartley McClung and James McDonald.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, COLUMBUS GROVE.

The Presbyterian church at Columbus Grove bears the distinction of being the oldest congregation of Presbyterians in Putnam county. The first church was organized on September 9, 1836, with the following charter members: Samuel McComb, Anna McComb, Adam Turner, Joseph Belford, Eleanor Belford, Joseph Nichols, Hannah Nichols, Martha Nichols, William McComb, Elizabeth McComb, Job Combs, Jane Combs, Martha Combs and Jane Pier.

A log church building was constructed in order that this loyal band of fifteen advocates of Presbyterianism could have a place in which to worship. The congregation soon began to grow and flourish, as more settlers came into the county and the country became more prosperous. The log structure was soon found to be inadequate to accommodate the ever-increasing workers, and on January 28, 1851, the contract was let for a new frame building. This was dedicated on December 28, 1851, under the pastorate of Rev. William K. Bryce. The cornerstone for the present beautiful structure was laid on November 3, 1901. This building was dedicated on October 5, 1902, under the pastorate of Rev. S. Delmar Conger, at a cost of twelve thousand dollars. The parsonage was purchased in 1884, under the pastorate of Rev. Edward Lauport, at a cost of three thousand dollars.

The following ministers have served the church: William McCookin, exact date unknown; James H. Anderson, September 1, 1840-April 14, 1843; William K. Bryce, February, 1849-September, 1868; Francis Lynn, August,

1870-August, 1872; J. B. Strain, January, 1873-January, 1876; David Kingery, October 1, 1876-November 10, 1878; J. Emory Fisher, April 1, 1879-April 1, 1882; R. H. McDonald, May 1, 1883-May 1, 1884; Edward Layport, June 1, 1884-May, 1889; A. M. Chapin, October 1, 1889-October 1, 1891; Thomas F. Boyd, January 1, 1892-April 1, 1894; George McKay, October 1, 1894-April 1, 1898; James K. Argo, October 23, 1898-November 1, 1899; S. Delmar Conger, January 1, 1900-January 1, 1909; Ralph W. Kohr, April 1, 1909, to the present time. Revs. McGookin, Anderson, Brice, Lynn, Strain, Kingery, Fisher, McDonald, McKay and Argo have served the church as stated supply. The other ministers who have served the congregation were regular pastors.

This congregation is one of the largest in the county and has had a steady growth from the time it was founded. The resident membership numbers two hundred and fifty-five at the present time, with out-of-town members three hundred and fifteen.

#### THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The Congregational church of Vaughnsville, Riley township, was organized in 1889. This church is an offspring of the Gomer Congregational church of Allen county and bears the distinction of being the only Congregational church in Putnam county. Dr. John Gethin Thomas was the founder of this church and under his leadership the beautiful church building was erected, at a cost of five thousand dollars. This church building still serves the congregation and is in excellent condition.

The ministers who followed Reverend Thomas have been as follows: D. A. Evans, exact date unknown; John G. Evans, 1906-1912; John Morgan Williams, 1912 to February 13, 1915; and the present pastor, David William Fletcher, who began his duty in March, 1915.

The church parsonage has but lately been remodeled and is now valued at three thousand dollars. It is a very pretty and commodious structure in which to house the minister. The growth of this church has been steady and no divisions or dissensions have ever arisen in its ranks of workers. There are at present one hundred and forty-two members enrolled under its banner.

The Sunday school, under the direction of Lloyd Roberts, is very active and has an attendance of one hundred and twenty-eight. The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor has an enrollment of forty members

## UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH, CONTINENTAL.

The United Brethren church of Continental, Ohio, was organized in 1888 with twenty-four charter members, comprising thirteen families in Continental. The following ministers have served the church: W. J. Eastbrook, R. A. Bales, F. E. Fitzwater, A. F. Light, G. B. Fisher, F. V. Newell, E. E. Williams, C. W. Jamison, M. F. Scouten, J. G. Turner, S. S. Wagner, R. W. Wilkis, Bittner, R. W. Kester, G. E. Burrell, Cora Fester and the present incumbent, O. M. Martin, who is finishing his third year. The present church building was erected under the pastorate of Rev. A. F. Light, at a cost of three thousand dollars. Since that time the congregation has built a parsonage, at a cost of one thousand six hundred dollars. The membership at present numbers one hundred and thirty. The church has the following auxiliaries: Sunday school, Young People's Christian Endeavor, Woman's Missionary Association and Ladies' Aid Society.

## UNITED BRETHERN CHURCH, WISTERMAN.

The Wisterman United Brethren church was organized in this strong community with thirty-five charter members. The congregation began to grow and flourish and about the year 1884 a frame church building was erected, at a cost of six hundred or seven hundred dollars.

The following ministers have served the church: Swaney Newell, Frank F. Fitzwater, Williams, Jameson, Wagoner, Keineth, Miss Cora Tester and the minister, O. M. Martin, who serves the church from Continental. The church has an active Sunday school and also a Young People's Christian Endeavor Society, both of which are well patronized by the younger members of the church. The congregation numbers eighteen.

## ST. JOHN'S UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH, COLUMBUS GROVE.

The congregation of St. John's United Brethren at Columbus Grove was formally organized in 1858, by Rev. Daniel Glancy. The church was organized with seven charter members, as follows: Rev. Daniel Glancy and wife, Amanda Fruchey, Lucy Monntz, Mr. and Mrs. Tracy, Joseph Billhamer. The church was christened St. John's United Brethern in Christ. The first church building, which was erected in 1860, served as a place of worship until 1878, when the present beautiful brick structure was erected, at a cost of ten thousand dollars. A parsonage was erected in 1897, at a cost of one

thousand dollars; in the spring of 1914 the parsonage was remodeled at a cost of one thousand four hundred dollars, and now provides the minister with very pretty and commodious quarters.

The ministers who have served the church are as follows: Daniel Glancy, Miller, Essics, Chester Briggs, E. B. Maurer, Kemer, T. J. Harbaugh, Eastman, Cyrus Bevington, S. H. Radabaugh, H. Shaffer, I. P. Lea, John Hipple, G. L. Bender, John Sergeant, U. S. Long, J. O. Rhodes, T. D. Ingel, B. F. Fritz, W. E. Davis, C. J. Roberts, O. F. Langhbaum, M. E. Gibson, C. N. Crabb, and the Rev. C. M. Eberly, the present pastor, who took charge of the congregation on October 1, 1913.

The growth of this church has been marked by its prosperity and rapid growth and at present four hundred members are enrolled under its banners. The church has a Woman's Missionary Society, Ladies' Aid Society and the Otterbin Guild, as auxiliaries of the church. All of these church societies are in a good working condition. The church is thoroughly organized and doing a good active work in all of the different departments.

#### UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH.

The United Brethren church of Cascade, was organized in 1885, with eight charter members. The early records of the church have been destroyed and a complete history of the society is not possible. Rev. W. Davis served this charge as the first pastor. A frame church building was erected, at a cost of eight hundred dollars, this being made possible by the donations of the members. It was indeed a monumental task in those days to secure proper financial co-operation even in so worthy a movement. The original membership numbered eight families and this was all there was to draw on to secure the funds for the erection of the first church. But, with a sublime self-sacrifice, they measured up to the situation and finally enough money was mustered together and soon the first United Brethren church at Cascade became a reality. The present membership embraces twenty-five souls and these are ministered to by the present pastor, F. Fitswater.

#### CHRISTIAN CHURCH, VAUGHNSVILLE.

The Christian church in Vaughnsville was organized on June 16, 1850, by Rev. Michael Martz, with seven charter members. The first services were held in a log school house near Vaughnsville. After a short time a

church building was erected in the village. The service of the pioneer pastors and their successors is of sacred memory to the settlers of this locality.

Rev. Michael Martz's pastorate extended over a period of twenty-one years, from June 16, 1850, to September 30, 1871. The church at that time had preaching services one Sunday each month. In 1870 began the services of Rev. William Mormon, who became the regular pastor and continued as such until September 30, 1878. The following pastors have served since that time, most of them beginning their labors in October and concluding their services in September, in accordance with the conference pastoral year: Daniel Lepley, 1878-79; G. B. Garner, 1879-80; Rev. Lepley and Rev. Rimer, alternating, 1880-81; G. B. Garner, 1881-82; H. H. Holverstott, 1882-86; C. J. Hance, 1886-87; Daniel Lobaugh, 1887-89; Revs. Holverstott and Garner, alternating, 1889-90; A. Noffsinger, 1890-93; J. N. Steffanni, 1893-95; G. W. Foltz, 1895-00; O. E. McCleary, 1900-02; A. L. West, 1902-04; G. B. Garner, 1904-06; Ford Bolton, 1906-07; F. E. Rockwell, 1908-10; J. M. Miller, 1910-13; Otto Halfaker, 1913-14, and the present pastor, Sanford Beougher.

There have been more than eight hundred names recorded in the roll book of the church since its organization, sixty-five years ago, and at present there are two hundred and seven active members. Prayer meetings, a Sunday school, Christian Endeavor Society, teachers' training and mission study classes, together with other societies, have assisted in the progress and development of the church.

The present church building was dedicated in 1873. Since that time it has been remodeled and enlarged. Many improvements have been made, including a new church parsonage. Throughout its history the church has been the recipient of divine blessings and the future successes of the church are assured.

#### ANTIOCH CHURCH.

The Antioch church is located in section 12, Monterey township. It was organized on June 20, 1882, with fourteen charter members. The members of this church built the present frame church building in the fall of that year, at a cost of six hundred and twenty-five dollars. Although this band of workers was not large, this was easily overcome by their liberality and desire for a place of worship.

The first pastor to minister to their spiritual needs was S. E. Smith. The church has prospered and at present has a membership of forty-three.

The present minister is A. W. Sparks. The young people of this congregation are also active in the Sunday school work and Young People's Society.

#### OTTAWA RIVER CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

The Ottawa River Christian church was organized in 1860. Through the earnest efforts of W. F. McLane, Elder Enos Foster held a series of meetings at the home of Mr. McLane and, on June 20 of the following year, Rev. Enos Foster and Rev. D. B. Wilson organized a church, to be called the Ottawa River Christian church; thus, the real organization did not occur until 1861. The charter members were: W. F. McLane, Elizabeth McLane, Martha Clevenger, Ruth Chandler, Susanah Clevenger, Phoebe A. Guffy, Anna Evans and Jane McKinley.

A number of additions were recorded in February of the following year and Elder Foster was retained as the church pastor. In 1862, with the aid of the citizens in the neighborhood, a neat little house of worship was erected on a lot donated by John Guffy, on the banks of the Ottawa river. This building was completed and dedicated to the services of God, November 30, 1862, by Elders Harvey and Martz. On December 13, of the same year, church officers were elected. Jesse C. Darbyshire was elected to the office of deacon and served in that capacity until his death, August 14, 1894.

In 1863 Elder Martz was chose as minister and served the church for fourteen years. On May 4, 1867, Henry Funk was chosen as assistant deacon and held that office until his death, in 1879. The following ministers have served the church since Elder Martz ceased his labors, up to the year 1895: W. C. Rimer, John Gelispie, Lewis Gander, G. B. Garner and A. Noffsinger.

The present beautiful church was erected in 1879 and will accomodate four hundred and fifty persons. The membership of the church numbers over two hundred and fifty souls.

#### MT. ZION CHURCH, MONROE TOWNSHIP.

The Mt. Zion church was organized in 1875 with twelve charter members. This was the first church organized in this township, outside of the town churches of Continental.

The first building, which is still serving the congregation as a place of worship, was completed in 1874. It will be seen that the church building was constructed and a place of worship afforded and later the congregation

was formally organized. This building was erected at a cost of two thousand dollars and is in a good state of preservation at the present time.

Rev. Gelispie served the congregation as the first regular minister. The present incumbent, Rev. C. J. Hance, serves the church as a charge from Spencerville.

This church is situated in the northwestern part of Putnam county and has drawn its members from the country around this section. The present membership numbers forty-five. The church supports a well-attended Sunday school.

#### LUTHERAN CHURCH, CONTINENTAL.

The Lutheran church at Continental was organized on August 2, 1896, by Rev. Frank C. Longaker. The total membership is the beginning numbered only eighteen.

The corner stone for a church building was laid in August, 1897, and in November of the same year the building was completed. This was a brick structure, erected at a cost of two thousand six hundred dollars. It is rather remarkable to note that this little band of eighteen followers were permanently located in a year after they were organized.

The ministers who have served this congregation are Rev. Frank C. Longaker, the founder of the congregation and under whose charge the church building was erected; Rev. Schroeder, date not known definitely; Rev. J. N. Barrett, June, 1901-June, 1906; Rev. J. Walter Bressler, June, 1908-February, 1910; Rev. G. M. Gran, June, 1910-October, 1914; Rev. Richard Rassmussen, May, 1915.

The church has passed through many years of prosperous growth and at present has a membership of forty-five. The Ladies' Aid Society is a strong auxiliary to the church.

#### CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN (DUNKARD), BLANCHARD.

It is a lamentable fact that the early records of Blanchard have never been recorded or have been very carelessly destroyed. This makes the church history a matter of memory and not altogether authentic in some of the dates. In 1840 the first Dunkard (Brethren) church was located at what is now the Blanchard church, at a point five miles southeast of the town of Continental.

One of the first Dunkard settlers seems to have been a man whose name was Prowant. Mr. Prowant was the father of five sons, four of whom later

became active ministers in the Dunkard faith. Three of these sons spent their entire lives in the Blanchard church.

Meetings were held in the homes of brethren and were conducted by ministers from Allen county until the year 1850. In that year, John Prowant was elected to the ministry of that church, and this must be about the date that the Blanchard church was organized. After the church organization the services were held in school houses and the homes of members until 1886, when the church building, which is located one-half mile west of DuPont, was erected and dedicated. It is a neat, plain house of worship and was erected at a cost of two thousand five hundred dollars. The following is a list of ministers who have been elected to the ministry from Blanchard church membership: John Prowant, first elder or bishop; Henry Prowant, William Prowant and Daniel Prowant, all of whom are deceased; Amos Budd, Harry Fuller, D. P. Weller and L. H. Prowant. Reverends Fuller, Weller, Prowant and Prowant are still actively engaged in the labors of the Blanchard church, with Elder D. P. Weller as overseer of the work.

Between the years 1886-90 the Sunday school was organized and is now in a prosperous condition, with an attendance which rivals any in the county, under the superintendency of Floyd Clevenger. Many members have been lost by emigration. The membership at present numbers one hundred and fifty souls.

#### TOWNSHIP CHURCHES.

The complete history of quite a number of the township churches of Putnam county is impossible to get. This is due to the fact that there have been many changes. Churches have been organized and lots purchased, and later some of these churches have been disbanded, to unite with other congregations. In consequence of these changes, the records of the churches were, in many instances, lost or destroyed.

By running the deed records of the county, the denomination of many of these churches was ascertained, but other information concerning the church was not obtainable. A list of these follows, which proves rather interesting:

In Liberty township, section 16, a lot was purchased, April 3, 1888, for two hundred dollars. The Evangelical church trustees transacted this business, but other early history of this church was not available.

In Liberty township, section 11, a lot was purchased, December 28, 1883, by the trustees of the Bethel church for a consideration of five dollars.

In Sugar Creek township, section 8, there are two deed records for



church property. The trustees of the Sugar Creek Baptist church purchased a lot for church purposes, April 21, 1854; also, the trustees of the Predestinarian faith purchased a lot. On April 19, 1884, the trustees of the Baptist church sold their lot and in the same year leased it of the new owner for church purposes.

In Sugar Creek township, section 27, there are three records of land conveyance to trustees of different churches for purposes of worship. These are the Welsh Methodist Episcopal church, the Welsh Congregational and the Salem Congregational.

In Jennings township, section 2, the trustees of the United Brethren church purchased property for one thousand five hundred dollars. This was on February 23, 1892. In section 26, the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal church purchased a lot for church purposes, May 22, 1877.

In Van Buren township, section 27, the trustees of the Evangelical church purchased a lot for the consideration of one dollar, on May 18, 1875.

The church lot for the Riley Creek Methodist Protestant church, section 36, Ottawa township, was purchased by the trustees, October 5, 1855, for one dollar. This was one of the oldest churches in the county.

In Greensburg township, section 10, a conveyance was made on January 13, 1896, to the trustees of the Mennonite church for the consideration of one hundred dollars.

In Blanchard township, section 13, the trustees of the Church of God purchased a lot for one dollar, May 7, 1887. A rather interesting conveyance is noted in Blanchard township, section 8. On October 25, 1856, the trustees of the United Brethern church purchased a lot for a consideration of one dollar. On April 13, 1875, the trustees of this denomination sold the lot to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal church.

In Perry township, section 8, a conveyance was made to the trustees of the German Baptist church, on February 5, 1887, for the consideration of thirty dollars.

In section 11, the trustees of the United Brethren church purchased a lot for one dollar, July 22, 1886. Another conveyance in this same section was that of the Methodist Episcopal church trustees, March 14, 1874. On October 1, 1899, they transferred this lot to the trustees of the United Brethern church, who used it for church purposes for a short time and then sold it to the township to be used for a township house.

In Riley township, section 11, a conveyance was made to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal church, June 27, 1863. On May 12, 1900, the Citizens Society of Riley township, section 3, purchased a lot to be used for

church purposes. On November 7, of the following year, they transferred their deed to this lot to the trustees of the United Brethren church. On June 15, 1888, the trustees of the Mennonite church purchased a lot in Riley township, section 16, for fifty dollars and erected their beautiful church building. The society is very active at the present time.

On September 21, 1868, the trustees of the United Brethern church purchased a lot in Pleasant township, section 22, to be used for church purposes.

On June 29, 1861, the trustees of the United Brethern church of Jackson township, section 11, purchased a lot on which to build a church.

On October 5, 1889, the trustees of the Christian church purchased a lot for church purposes in Monterey township, section 12. In this same section the trustees of the Antioch church purchased a lot, August 16, 1904. Some of these churches are still active, others are served by a supply minister and a few have been disbanded entirely.

#### SS. PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH, OTTAWA.

In January, 1861, Matthias Muller, a resident of Ottawa, donated one acre of land as a site for a church. Although the Catholics residing at Ottawa were identified with the parish of St. John's church at Glandorf, they had been petitioning for permission to build a church of their own. This request was granted by Bishop Rappe in 1868 and the Rev. A. Reichert, pastor of Glandorf, was commissioned to solicit subscriptions for that object. The cornerstone for the new church was laid on June 14, 1868, but the building was not completed until 1872. It was dedicated on August 15, of that year, by Bishop Gilmour and placed under the patronage of the apostles, Ss. Peter and Paul. It is a handsome brick structure, fifty by one hundred and thirty feet, and the building alone cost approximately eighteen thousand dollars. The present fine organ was purchased in 1882, at a cost of one thousand eight hundred dollars. The children of the parish attended the Catholic district schools until 1887, when a brick school and residence for the teachers was erected, at a cost of four thousand five hundred dollars. This is conducted by Sanguinist Sisters. The present spacious brick pastoral residence was built in 1892, under the pastorate of Father Dick, at a cost of nearly three thousand dollars.

The following Sanguinist Fathers have had charge of the parish: Revs. A. Reichert and J. Marty, 1868-73; Rev. F. Schalk, 1873-76; Rev. C. Roessner, 1876-78; Rev. R. Abbrederis, 1878-83; Rev. B. Boebner, 1883-91; Rev. A. Dick, 1891-97; Rev. Bernard Russ, 1897-1900 (now deceased); Rev. A.





REV. MICHAEL MUELLER.

Dentinger, 1900 to the present time. The church property is in excellent condition and free from debt. The congregation is composed chiefly of Germans, or their descendants.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, OTTOVILLE.

Through the untiring efforts and self-sacrificing generosity of Father John Otto Bredeick, the spiritual wants of the few early settlers of Ottoville were ministered to faithfully until his death in 1858. In 1850 Father Bredeick purchased forty acres of land and laid it out in town lots. The best were set aside for church purposes and the rest were sold, setting aside the proceeds of their sale for the benefit of the church. In 1860 Rev. F. Westenholtz, who attended Ottoville from Delphos, took up this work left off by Father Bredeick and in the fall of the same year the foundation for a new church was blessed. This was a frame structure, forty by eighty feet, and was dedicated in the spring of 1861. It was assigned to Rev. J. J. Goebels, pastor of the Ft. Jennings church, who had charge of it until 1864. Rev. A. J. Abel, the first resident pastor of Ottoville, had charge of it until July, 1865, from which time until June, 1866, it was attended from Ft. Jennings. The following served as resident pastors: 1866-68, Rev. H. D. Best; Rev. Michael Muller, to January 27, 1900; Rev. H. Wichmann, to June, 1900; Rev. J. B. Mertes, the present pastor, who has the distinction of being the only irremovable priest in the county. The rich land around Ottoville was a great inducement to many Catholic German farmers to become its owners, with the result that the parish grew very rapidly. Father Muller, seeing the increase in wealth and size of his charge, realized that a larger and more ample church was necessary, and with this object in view, he started a subscription for the erection of a church, his call on their generosity being met with a ready response. The plans for a church of pure Gothic design were submitted and approved by Bishop Gilmour. The cornerstone was laid on June 7, 1885, by the Very Rev. Administrator Boff, and in the summer of 1888 it was completed. It was dedicated on September 23, 1888. The church is seventy-eight feet wide by one hundred and seventy feet long, and ninety feet in the transept, with two towers one hundred and eighty feet tall. Much taste is shown in the painting and frescoing of the pillars and groined ceiling; in fact, the whole presents a beautiful and striking appearance. It was finished at a cost of sixty thousand dollars. In 1890 a steam plant was installed in the church, at a cost of two thousand one hundred dollars. In 1892 a set of stations was placed in position, at a

cost of two thousand two hundred dollars. In 1898 the present splendid altar was placed in the church, at a cost of three thousand dollars. The church is now fully equipped and it is needless to say that its furnishings are the best. In 1901 a pastoral residence was built; this is of brick and highly in keeping with the adjacent church. In 1898 an organ was installed at a cost of four thousand dollars.

#### ST. MARY'S CHURCH, LEIPSIC.

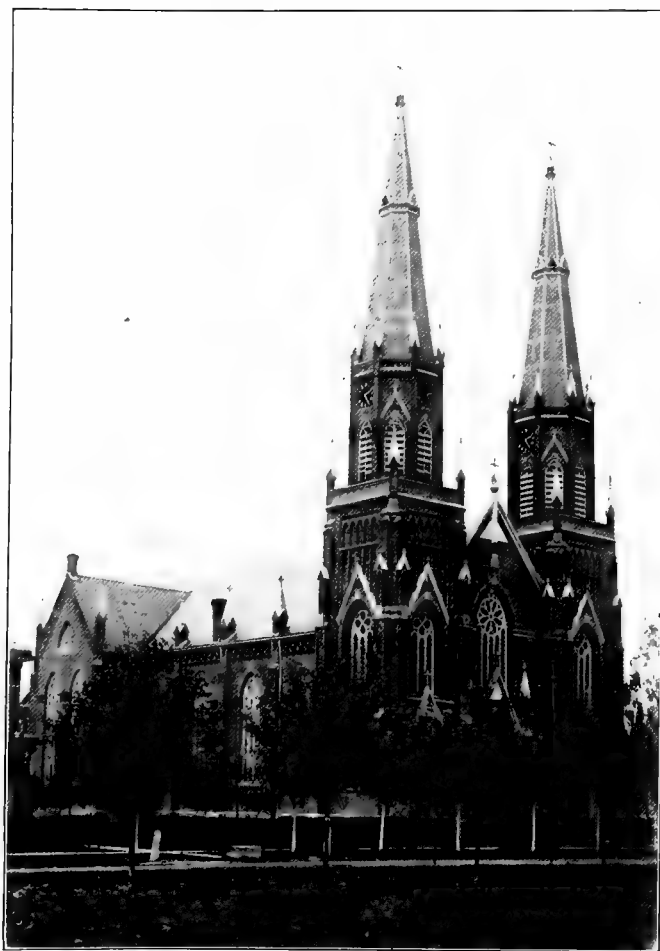
The history of the congregation at Leipsic dates back to about 1873, when a few Catholics began to settle here and were attended by Rev. Henry Kaempker, of New Cleveland, from 1874-78. The first church, a small frame structure, twenty-five by forty-five feet, was erected, under the direction of Rev. Kaempker, in 1876, at a cost of five hundred dollars. Rev. John Bertemes served Leipsic, from New Cleveland, as a mission from January, 1889, until February, 1891, when he was appointed first resident pastor. From 1878 to 1889 the congregation was attended by Revs. Joseph Rosenberg and Joseph Eyler. During Rev. Rosenberg's administration, two lots were purchased, in May, 1887, to serve as a site for the prospective pastoral residence and school. The pastoral residence was built during the time of Rev. Eyler, at a cost of one thousand four hundred dollars. The foundation of the large frame church was blessed on August 30, 1891, by the Rt. Rev. Mgr. F. M. Boff, and this structure was completed in 1892, under the pastorate of Rev. Bertemes. It was dedicated on May 14, 1893, by Bishop Horstmann. This church is forty-five feet wide, fifty-seven feet in the transept and one hundred and two feet long; the interior height is thirty-four feet and the spire is one hundred and twenty-five feet high. It has a seating capacity of six hundred when the large gallery is used, and was erected at a cost of about twelve thousand dollars. Father Bertemes organized the first parochial school, in October, 1890, and it was in charge of lay teachers until May 1, 1899, when the building was destroyed by fire. During the summer of the same year a new four-room brick building was constructed, at a cost of five thousand dollars. Three teachers are in charge of the school, which has an attendance of one hundred and five pupils. The ministers who have served the congregation since 1900 are: Rev. John Baumgartner, Rev. Stephen Weber, Rev. Carl Alter, Rev. Leon Plumanns, and the present pastor, Rev. John B. Wendling.





ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, KALLIDA.





ST. MARY'S CHURCH, OTTOVILLE.



## ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, KALIDA.

The Catholics at Kalida were identified with St. John's parish at Glandorf, but as early as 1861 they were desirous of having a church of their own. In the year 1861 they put their desires in the form of a request, and the Rev. Joseph J. Goebbels, pastor of the Ft. Jennings congregation, made the preliminary arrangements for its erection. A lot was purchased and active work was begun on the building, but destiny decreed that the workers' desires should not be granted, at least at that time, for in the same year the county seat of Putnam county was transferred from Kalida to Ottawa. This caused a great disturbance in the business interests of Kalida and quite a few of the Catholics removed to other places. In consequence of this, the unfinished structure was abandoned. Sixteen years elapsed before anything more was done towards the erection of a new church. But, in the meantime, many Catholics had settled in and near Kalida, so that by 1877 they numbered seventeen families. In 1877, after they bought and paid for a fine lot in September of the previous year, they petitioned the Rev. Michael Muller, pastor of the Ottoville church, to aid them in erecting the much-desired church, for which they also obtained Bishop Gilmour's consent. A subscription to the amount of four thousand dollars was raised by Father Muller, after which active work was begun on the building, a brick edifice, forty-two by sixty-five feet. Its cornerstone was laid on June 16, 1878, and the church was dedicated on December 1st of the same year, to St. Michael. The congregation was attended, alternately, from Ottoville and Ft. Jennings, on every second Sunday, until January, 1888, when the mission was placed in charge of the Sanguinist Fathers, at Glandorf. The first was Rev. Rochus Schuly, who was succeeded, in June, 1894, by the Rev. Chrysostom Hummer, who had the church greatly enlarged in 1895. Its width at present in the transept is fifty-six feet, and its length is one hundred and thirteen feet; the present graceful spire was also built during Father Hummer's regime. About seven thousand dollars was expended on the enlargement of the church, the frescoing and other improvements. The renovated and practically new church was dedicated on May 17, 1896, by Bishop Horstmann. In September of the same year Father Hummer was succeeded by Rev. Valentine Schirack, and, being the first resident pastor of the congregation, Rev. Schirack resided at Kalida from May, 1900, until 1903, when he was succeeded by the present pastor, Rev. M. Muehe. Father Schirack succeeded in paying off the entire church debt, besides procuring two church

bells, at a cost of one thousand dollars, and in the spring of the following year, 1899, he raised a subscription of four thousand dollars for a pastoral residence, which was completed in May, 1900, at a cost of five thousand dollars. The children attended the so-called Catholic "District Schools" until recently, when a parochial school building, a two-story brick structure, was constructed at a cost of ten thousand dollars. Four Sisters of Divine Providence serve the school, which has an enrollment of one hundred and seventy children. The present parish numbers nine hundred and forty-five souls. The total value of the entire church property is approximately sixty thousand dollars.

#### ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH, MILLER CITY.

The present flourishing parish of Miller City was organized in 1886 by the Rev. Joseph Rosenberg, then pastor of the New Cleveland church. Nichols Noirod presented two lots for the church site and in 1887 active work was begun on a building by Father Rosenberg, which was completed in the following year under the direction of Rev. Joseph Eyler, at a cost of about two thousand dollars. St. John's parish, of Glandorf, donated four hundred dollars to the mission of Miller City and also gave the pews which were formerly used in their church. The church was dedicated on August 26, 1888, by Mgr. F. M. Boff, V. G., and placed under the patronage of St. Nicholas.

Before the appointment of the first resident pastor, Rev. Charles Wagner, in July, 1899, it was attended as a mission from New Cleveland, and later from Leipsic. During the time Rev. J. Bertemes attended Miller City from Leipsic (1889-99), he purchased two acres of land to be used as a cemetery. This was blessed on June 11, 1893, and, on November 30, 1896, he purchased three lots as a site for a school and pastoral residence. The present pastoral residence was built in 1899 by Father Wagner. The church was so badly damaged by lightning on September 4, 1898, that preparations were at once made for a new building. The cornerstone for a brick church, fifty-four by one hundred and twenty-four feet, was blessed October 28, 1900, by Bishop Horstmann. It is of Gothic architecture and cost twenty-three thousand dollars. The pastors serving this charge since Father Wagner (1899-1903) are as follows: Rev. Widemer, 1903-1913; Rev. Henry Gerwert, 1913 to the present time. During the pastorate of Father Widemer a parochial residence was built, in 1909, at a cost of five thousand dollars.

## ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, FT. JENNINGS.

The spiritual wants of the early settlers of Ft. Jennings were attended by Father Horstmann, of Glandorf, for many years before the town was laid out, services being held in private houses during that period. In 1838, Rev. Tunker, pastor of the Dayton church, attended the mission of Ft. Jennings and two years later the Catholics and Protestants united and built a log house to serve for church and school purposes. This very unusual arrangement, made with the sanction of Father Horstmann, remained in effect over fourteen years. Rev. Henry Herzog was appointed the first resident pastor in 1840, but remained less than a year. Father Horstmann then took charge of the mission and attended it until his death in February, 1843. His successor at Glandorf, Rev. George Bohne, also attended Ft. Jennings until 1851, when he was appointed resident pastor of the place. Upon his death, September 20, 1860, it was attached to Delphos as a mission and attended by Rev. F. Westerholt until March, 1861, when Rev. Joseph Goebels was appointed resident pastor; he remained until 1864. His successors are the following: Rev. H. E. Hamers, 1864-66; Rev. C. Viere, 1866-67; attended from Ottoville by M. Muller, 1867-70; L. Zumbuhl, 1870-73; C. Darbier, September, 1873, until his death August 23, 1876; J. A. Michenfelder, August 1876, to May, 1879; G. Peter, 1879-81; J. Heidegger, 1881-88; C. Braschler, 1888-99; M. Arnoldi, 1899, to November 5, 1914; the present incumbent, John A. Christ, became pastor of the church on the latter date.

Father Bohne was desirous of a new church as soon as he became resident pastor in 1851, but he did not get the second of his people until a year later, when the foundation of a brick church, forty by sixty feet, was laid. Two years later it was completed at a cost of two thousand dollars and on December 24, 1854, it was dedicated to St. Joseph. Although plain and without any architectural adornment, it served its purpose until the erection of the present beautiful structure. This was begun during the pastorate of Father Heidegger in the fall of 1882, and was dedicated on May 4, 1884, by Bishop Gilmour. It is of Gothic architecture, one hundred and thirty-two feet by fifty-five feet, and the furnishings are all of white oak. It cost about twenty-one thousand dollars. A two-story frame building served as pastoral residence for a number of years. In 1899 the present brick pastoral residence was built at a cost of seven thousand dollars. The congregation at present numbers eight hundred and twenty-seven.

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, GLANDORF.

The first Catholic place of worship in Putnam county was erected for Father Horstmann in Glandorf and on Easter Sunday, March 30, 1834, he celebrated the first mass in it. It was a small house, built of hewed logs, and served as a residence for Father Horstmann and also as a chapel. By 1836 the little colony of sturdy Germans had increased so that Father Horstmann's chapel would not accommodate them, and this necessitated the building of a new place of worship. The new church, a log structure, twenty-two by forty feet, and covered with split weatherboards, was built and dedicated in 1837. St. John the Baptist was chosen as its patron saint. In the same year a log school house was built and Father Horstmann served as its first teacher. The following year a log pastoral residence was built to replace the one of four years previous. Father Horstmann, whose health had begun to fail, asked Bishop Purcell for an assistant. In 1841 Rev. George Bohne was supplied. Two years later, February 21, 1843, Father Horstmann was called to his reward. Father Bohne soon began the task of erecting a brick church. The corner stone was laid in 1846 and the entire parish seconded Father Bohne in the undertaking. The building was dedicated on the first Sunday in Advent, 1848, and placed under the patronage of St. John the Baptist by Rev. A. Kunkler. The building was fifty by ninety feet and at that time was considered without an equal in northwestern Ohio. Father Bohne resigned a few months before the church was dedicated and was transferred to Ft. Jennings. The Sanguinist Fathers were then placed in charge of the parish and in the fall of the same year established a convent. A list of the Sanguinist Fathers who have had charge of the Glandorf congregation follows: Revs. A. Kunkler, A. Herbstritt, M. A. Meyer, 1848-50; Rev. M. Homburger, 1850-53; Rev. A. Schelbert, 1853-58; Rev. M. A. Kramer, 1858-61; Rev. A. Reichert, 1861-74; Rev. B. Dickmann, 1874-81; Rev. M. Menk, May to October 1881; Rev. F. Nigsch, 1881-97; Rev. T. Wittmer, 1897 to January, 1914; Rev. L. Schupp, since January, 1914.

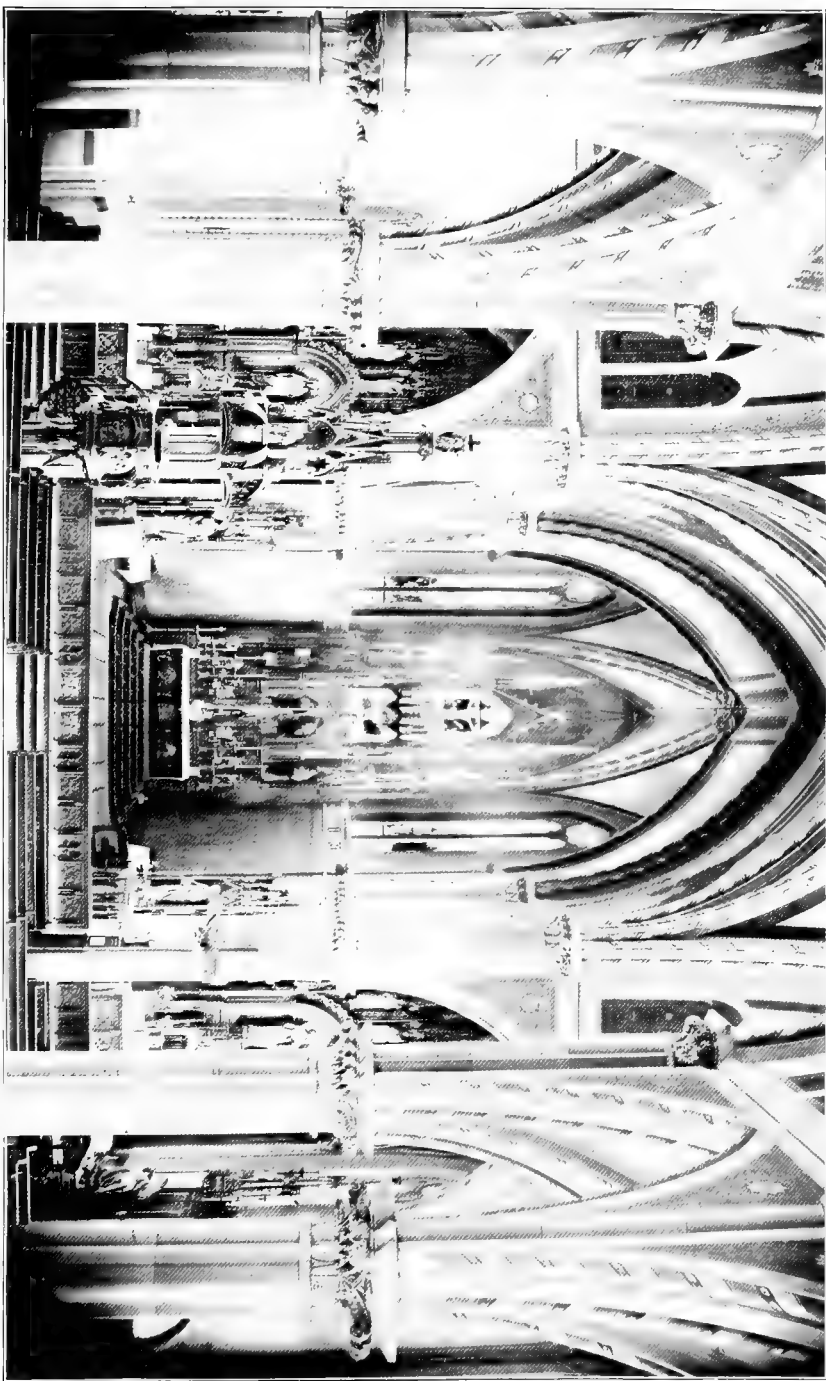
In 1874, when Father Dickmann took charge of the church at Glandorf, he realized the pressing needs of a new church, as the present building was too small to accommodate the entire parish. In 1875 the foundation was laid and on June 24, 1876, the cornerstone was laid by the Rev. A. Kunkler. Owing to an unforeseen delay, when the completed spire was struck by





ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH AND PASTORAL RESIDENCE, FT. JENNINGS.





INTERIOR VIEW, ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, GLANVILLE.



lightning, the building was not completed until December, 1878, and was dedicated December 15, by Bishop Gilmour.

The church, of pure Gothic architecture, is built of clear red brick, trimmed with sandstone. It is one hundred and seventy-five feet long and seventy feet wide, the width at transept being eighty-six feet; the spire is two hundred and twenty-five feet high. The interior is very impressive and inspires a feeling of reverence and awe. The richly-carved oak pulpit, which was exhibited at the World's Fair at Philadelphia, cost one thousand four hundred dollars. In 1888 altars, pews, stations and statuary were added, at a cost of five thousand three hundred dollars. In 1897 a town clock and four bells were installed by Father Wittmer. The parochial residence was finished in 1904 at a cost of fourteen thousand dollars. Glandorf has an excellent school, and although it is public in name, it is in charge of the church. In 1893 a fine house was built for the combined use of the organist and principal of the school. At present one lay teacher and six Sanguinist Sisters conduct the schools.

Although Glandorf parish has been dismembered three times, nevertheless it has a strong membership of three hundred.

. HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, NEW CLEVELAND.

In 1861 the Rev. Sebastian Ganther organized a mission at New Cleveland, while he was pastor of St. John's church at Glandorf. It was attended by the following pastors of Glandorf until 1873: Rev. Ganther, 1861-68; Rev. Engelbert Ruf, 1868-72, and Rev. Jacob Marte, 1872, to April, 1873, from Glandorf as a mission.

John Weis donated a two-acre tract of land in 1861 as a site for a church and pastoral residence. The church was built in the fall of the same year at a cost of one thousand seven hundred dollars and dedicated to the Holy Family. This was enlarged in 1881 and at present the church is fully equipped and its furnishings are very complete. In April, 1873, Rev. Charles Barbier was appointed to take charge of the congregation and bears the distinction of being the first resident pastor. He served until March, 1874, when he was succeeded by Rev. H. Kaempker, who served until April, 1878. The following pastors have since served the church: Rev. E. Hipelius, April, 1878, to June, 1880; Rev. J. Rosenberg, June 1880, to April, 1888; Rev. J. Eyler, April, 1888, to January, 1889; Rev. J. Bertemes, January, 1889, to 1891; Rev. Amadeus Dambach, 1891, 1905; Albert Cerup, 1905-

1914; A. R. Noltia, 1914, to present time. The first parochial residence was built by Father Barbier in 1873 at a cost of one thousand dollars. In 1906 Father Cerup built the present parochial residence at a cost of eight thousand dollars. Three years later a frame parish school was erected on a lot opposite the church, and placed in charge of the Sisters of St. Francis, who conducted it until 1889. At present the children attend the Catholic district schools.

#### ST. JOSEPH'S MISSION CHURCH, NORTH CREEK.

The Catholic families of North Creek, prior to the year 1889, were desirous of having a church of their own, as they found it difficult to attend mass at New Bavaria, with which parish they were identified. They made their desire known to Bishop Gilmour and he acceded to their wish in April, 1887. Three acres of land were donated by Ferdinand Ball as a site for the proposed church. The church building was a frame structure and cost one thousand two hundred dollars. The Ft. Jennings church donated the altar and a supply of vestments and the Glandorf congregation donated the pews. But for more than a year they were without the services of a priest, owing to a shortage, and the little church was not used for its sacred purpose. The people who had made the sacrifices were obliged, therefore, to continue their affiliations with the parish of New Bavaria. But their desires were soon realized and in January, 1889, the resident pastor of Holgate was directed to attend the mission. In March, 1890, the Holgate pastor was removed to Toledo and the mission was again without the services of a pastor. Again, in June of the same year, it was attached to Holgate and has been attended monthly from the place since that time.

#### ST. BARBARA'S CHURCH, CLOVERDALE.

The Cloverdale congregation is an outgrowth of the Ottoville parish and consisted at first of only ten Catholic families. The surrounding country is settled largely by prosperous German Catholic farmers, who form the principal membership of the congregation. In order to obviate the necessity of going to Ottoville, seven miles distant, the farmers petitioned Bishop Horstmann for permission to erect a church for themselves. This permission was granted as soon as they gave evidence of their ability to build and pay for the desired church. This was done in January, 1895, and the Rev. Michael Mueller, pastor of Ottoville, was commissioned to secure a proper

site to serve for a church, school and pastoral residence. A three-acre tract of land was bought and in the summer of 1898 a frame church, forty by ninety feet in size, was built at a cost of five thousand dollars. It was dedicated in August of the same year to St. Barbara. For two years Cloverdale was attended from Ottoville every Sunday as a mission by Father Mueller, assisted by Rev. Henry Wichmann. Father Wichmann was appointed resident pastor of Cloverdale in June, 1900, and in the fall of the same year he had a residence built at a cost of about three thousand dollars. The parish numbers about eighty-five families at present. The school children are accommodated by the Catholic district schools, a regular parochial school being impracticable, as the children live too far from the church. In 1903-04 Father Wichmann succeeded in erecting a brick school building at a cost of twelve thousand dollars. Four teachers serve the school, which has an attendance of one hundred and eighty pupils.

## CHAPTER IX.

### NEWSPAPERS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

In writing the history of Putnam county it is but meet that its newspapers receive specific mention, as they were not only among its first enterprises, but aided greatly in the development of the county. They have given the general news on almost every subject of a public nature and have been prone to comment in a fearless manner upon public events.

Before the Civil War there were but few daily papers in existence in this state, and they were not taken by the people generally, as the mail facilities were such that a daily paper would not reach the people here until at least a week after its publication.

In the early history of this part of the state a number of newspapers were started, not only to promote the development of the various counties, but to promulgate political opinions as well. As the counties were formed their political complexion was in doubt and the partisans of both the Democratic and Whig parties, the leading political organizations of that time, were anxious to obtain the ascendancy. The general politics of that time in this part of the state showed a tendency toward Democracy. Whenever a Democratic paper was started, the Whigs, if they had the political strength, started a paper in opposition, to advocate their principles.

Partyism in those days, as between the Democrats and Whigs, was very intense and political questions were argued with a bitterness of feeling that does not now exist among political parties.

Among the county newspapers published in this part of the State before the Civil War were the *Kalida Venture*, in this county; the *Defiance Democrat* and the *Defiance Banner*, at Defiance; the *Hancock Courier*, at Findlay; the *Western Empire*, at St. Marys; the *Lima Argus* and the *Lima Reporter*, at Lima; the *Section 10 Budget* and the *Delphos Oracle*, at Delphos; the *Fulton Democrat*, at Ottokee, and possibly one or two other papers.

In those days the successful publication of a county paper was a problem difficult of solution. While the subscription price was twice as much as that of the papers of today, the circulation of the papers was very limited and the patronage equally limited in the way of advertising. The art of ad-

vertising was only in its infancy, for what is now known as commercial or business advertising was scarcely known and such an advertisement would have been a novelty. The only advertising of the kind was that of patent medicines, the proprietors of which were certainly the pioneers in business advertising. The great revenue and the main support for the newspapers then was what is known as "legal notices," and the great amount of them requiring publication afforded a revenue to the publisher sufficient to keep his newspaper afloat for the entire year. Notices of foreclosure, sheriff's sales, cases in chancery, road notices, etc., were numerous and filled many columns of the newspaper. In those days what is known as the delinquent and forfeited land lists, which required publication, was a great source of revenue to the printer, the list making from three to four pages of the paper and was considered as a bonanza by the papers which published it.

In those days the county newspaper had to cover considerable ground in its make-up. It had to give its readers literary matter, articles on scientific subjects, historical matter, natural history and much pertaining to the arts and sciences, as books were scarce and the masses of the people unable to purchase them. The proceedings of Congress and State Legislatures were published at length and the editorials were principally devoted to politics and the discussion of public and party questions. Considerable attention was also given to foreign news upon the arrival of steamships from foreign countries.

This fact no doubt had a bearing upon the subject matter which appeared in the county papers of that time, as they were compelled to keep their readers informed in regard to matters of state, and to express the views of the editor upon all issues of a public nature. In this respect the county papers filled the wants of the people, who at the time were greatly interested in such matters. The county paper in those days was certainly ably edited, as much ability was displayed in the articles of its editor. However, if the newspaper of today was each week filled with the same kind of reading matter as then published, its circulation would be very limited. But it was what the people of that day wanted and they were satisfied.

There was scarcely a reference to local events and only things of more than ordinary import were mentioned, and they in a very brief manner, except in a cases of murder or fatal accidents.

The county newspapers of ante-bellum days were very different in many respects from those of today. The paper upon which it was printed was made entirely of rags and was of excellent quality. The type used was much better than that of today, and would last five times as long, even if it

was run on a power press. The old hand press did not injure the type by impression like the modern presses, and the type produced a clear and clean impression, even if the appliances for inking it were very crude and simple.

Then, too, money was a scarce commodity in ante-bellum days and the newspaper publisher was compelled to take anything he could use in payment on subscriptions or advertising. For this reason, wolf scalps, raccoon skins, corn, pork, chickens, eggs, stove wood, dried apples, and scores of other miscellaneous products were gladly received by the editor.

#### KALIDA VENTURE.

The first newspaper of Putnam county was very appropriately called the *Kalida Venture* and it does not take a vivid imagination to figure out why the editor chose such a name. The venturesome editor was Francis Gillette, who at the same time eked out a livelihood by practicing law in the county seat. From the time of the first issue, February 20, 1841, Putnam county has not been without at least one paper, although the editors have undoubtedly often had a hard time to make both ends meet. The files of this *Venture* have not been preserved and the dates of changes in ownership are difficult to trace. However, the succeeding owners are known and are given in the order in which they had charge of the paper.

Gillette was evidently not a success as a newspaper man, for within a short time he disposed of the paper to Horace Knapp, later the author of the "History of the Maumee Valley." Knapp struggled with the *Venture* until 1845, when James McKenzie, a prominent lawyer of Kalida, undertook to add editorial duties to his legal practice. This disciple of Blackstone must have been a man of ability, since he continued as owner and editor of the paper until 1854. At that time he was succeeded by Luther Wolf, and subsequently John Dixon became the sole owner and editor and so continued until the county seat was moved to Ottawa in 1866. Just when Dixon moved his plant to the new county seat is not known, but it appears to have been in 1865 or the year following. With the change of location went a change of name and the *Venture* appears in Ottawa as the *Citizen*. The change of location and name seemed to have been too severe a shock, and the newly-born *Citizen* soon breathed its last.



## KALIDA SENTINEL.

In 1865 the *Kalida Sentinel* was established by Elam Day. As the name indicates, it was a Democratic sheet. Just why the name *Sentinel* was early appropriated by Democratic editors will probably always remain a mystery, but it is safe to say that every paper bearing the name has been of that political persuasion. As in the case of the *Venture*, the files of the *Sentinel* are missing and consequently exact dates are not available. Day was succeeded after a short time by Luther Wolf, who, in turn, was succeeded by Levi G. Lee. The paper must have been unprofitable, if frequent changes in ownership are any indication of the success of the enterprise. Lee evidently remained at the head of the paper only a short time, since it is known that M. G. Gillette was editing the paper during the Civil War.

At the close of the war, presumably at the time the county seat was changed to Ottawa, the *Sentinel* was moved by Gillette from Kalida to Ottawa and rechristened the *Putnam County Sentinel*, a name which it has now borne for half a century. Upon the removal, there was a change in ownership, Gillette taking in as partners Stephen Godfrey and Leonard Miller. Miller was intrusted with the editorial management and remained in this capacity until some time in 1866, when he retired from the newspaper business, Godfrey and Gillette continuing the paper until 1867.

In June, 1867, George D. Kinder purchased Godfrey's interest in the *Sentinel* and a year later secured the interest of Gillette, thereby becoming the sole owner. Mr. Kinder continued as editor and proprietor for a period of thirty-five years and during his long connection with it built up a newspaper medium which took high rank among the papers of the state. In 1900 Mr. Kinder decided to lay aside the cares of the editorial chair and sold his paper to a stock company. A stock company, with some changes in stockholders, has been in charge of the paper down to the present time, although it has had several changes in the editorial management. In 1913 A. P. Sandles became the managing editor and has since continued to serve in that capacity. While Mr. Kinder has no financial interest in the *Sentinel*, he still retains his chair in the office of the paper and has assisted in the publication of practically every issue for the past fifteen years with the exception of the four years he spent in the treasurer's office. The love for his old paper keeps him in close touch with the business and the probability is that the *Sentinel* will continue to bear the impress of his individuality as long as he lives. Few men in the state have been connected with the newspaper

business longer than Mr. Kinder and still fewer have made as pronounced success in this line of activity.

PUTNAM COUNTY DEMOKRAT.

*Der Demokrat* was established at Ottawa in 1887 by C. W. Bente. He remained in charge of the paper until September, 1890, when he sold it to Henry Holterman. A year later Mr. Holterman disposed of the paper to Carl Wohlfarth, who was sole owner and editor until May, 1892, at which time he sold a half interest in the paper to H. F. Rauh. The new firm was known as the Demokrat Publishing Company and continued in charge of the paper until March 4, 1893. On that date Mr. Rauh bought the plant at receiver's sale and at once made plans to place the paper on a sound financial basis. He succeeded beyond his expectations and within a short time it was enjoying a large circulation and advertising patronage and became one of the leading German publications of the Northwest. Mr. Rauh has now been in charge of the paper for nearly a quarter of a century and has built up a circulation which extends far beyond the limits of Putnam county.

OTTAWA TELEGRAM.

During the Civil War, in 1862 or 1863, John M. McElroy, now editor of the *National Tribune* of Washington, D. C., started a paper in Ottawa which he called the *Telegram*, but, for reasons not known, it was destined to live for only a short time. McElroy soon disposed of the paper to Jacob S. Foster, who struggled with the wavering sheet a few months and then discontinued it.

OTTAWA GAZETTE.

The *Ottawa Gazette* was founded in September, 1881, by C. L'H. Long, who retained his connection with the paper for a few years and then disposed of it to George Bassett. The new proprietor continued in charge but about six months and then sold it to Hoffa & Vale, the new proprietors managing the paper until the spring of 1893. In that year C. P. Godfrey became the owner and ran the paper until about 1901. He was succeeded by J. H. Letcher and after struggling for a few years with the sheet he sold it to E. B. Walkup, who continued as owner and editor until 1913. At that time a stock company was organized to take over the paper. This stock company was composed of the following persons: J. P. Leasure, Jean P.

Vale, G. A. Stauffer, L. E. Eastman, Angela Eastman, A. Graham, D. R. Jenkins, Sr., H. I. and E. M. Kahle, Samuel Burkholder, William Rimer, Guy R. Coit and Charles Veach. Jean P. Vale was made editor and manager and continued in this double capacity until April 26, 1915. She then retired from the paper and the editorial management was assumed by G. A. Stauffer, while B. H. Spitler became the business manager. At the same time L. E. Eastman became the secretary of the board of directors.

#### LEIPSIC FREE PRESS.

The *Leipsic Free Press* was established on September 13, 1878, by W. W. Smith, who remained the proprietor and editor until his death, on February 14, 1912. For many years he issued it as a semi-weekly. After his death his son, George F., assumed charge of the paper and still continues as editor.

#### LEIPSIC TRIBUNE.

The *Leipsic Tribune* was founded in 1891 by Pratt Kline. He was succeeded by H. F. Wendle, who retained connection with the paper as proprietor and editor for a number of years and then disposed of it to W. H. Holderman, the present editor.

#### OTHER COLUMBUS GROVE PAPERS.

There have been at least two other papers published at Columbus Grove—the *Record* and the *Clipper*, but neither paper had more than an ephemeral existence. The *Clipper* was founded by F. S. Kline in 1893 and lived a more or less precarious existence for about three years.

#### KALIDA RECORD.

The *Kalida Record* was established in the nineties by E. J. Bolerjack, who was succeeded by W. N. Curtiss, the present owner and editor. Curtiss also printed the *Ottoville Leader*, a weekly paper devoted to Ottoville news and advertising, from December, 1912, to March, 1915.

#### PANDORA TIMES.

J. R. Swaney founded the *Pandora Times* in 1899 and conducted it for two years. In 1901 A. J. Stevens purchased the paper, but a few months

later disposed of it to D. B. Basinger, the present owner and editor. Mr. Basinger also issues from his press the *Missionary Worker*, a semi-monthly publication, and the *Baeschafter*, a monthly German paper.

#### CONTINENTAL UNION-NEWS.

The *Continental Union-News* was started several years ago and was eventually disposed of to J. H. Hartman, who has been the editor since that time. Since he has the only paper in the town, he has made a financial success.

#### THE PUTNAM COUNTY VIDETTE.

The files of the *Vidette* are in very poor shape and many of the numbers are missing entirely, consequently the early history of the paper is hard to get. The *Vidette* was founded in 1873 by W. C. Tinge, but just how long he continued to edit the paper cannot be ascertained, nor who became his successor. The following is as complete a list of the editors as could be secured:

Edward L. Voit, 1897-1902; Truman N. Vorean, 1903-1904; Mrs. Jean P. Vale, September 16, 1904-November 18, 1904; H. B. Cartwright, November 18, 1904-May 12, 1905; A. R. Eversol, May 12, 1905-September 14, 1906; Mrs. J. P. Vale and Frank E. Ward, September 14, 1906-1907; Frank E. Ward, 1907-October 1, 1914; W. H. Holderman, October 1, 1914, to the present time.

#### OTTOVILLE TRI-COUNTY NEWS.

The *Ottoville Tri-County News* was established in 1906 by Mr. Fluhart, a newspaper man who had been conducting a paper at Continental. The first issue of the paper was printed in Continental, but all of his succeeding issues were printed in Ottoville. Fluhart purchased a job printing outfit of C. B. Wannemacher, of Ottoville, in 1906, which Wannemacher had been operating since March, 1904. Fluhart's paper gave special attention to the news of Putnam, Van Wert and Paulding counties, hence the name of *Tri-County News*. A few years later, Fluhart sold the paper to Thomas Siebold, who continued it under the old name until about 1910. In that year he moved the plant to Middlepoint, Ohio, where he is still in the newspaper business.

## OTTOVILLE LEADER.

After the *Tri-County News* was discontinued, C. B. Wannemacher bought a good newspaper plant and in July, 1910, issued the first number of the *Ottoville Leader*. He printed the paper regularly until July 28, 1911, when he issued his last number (Vol. II, No. 53). Shortly afterwards, Wannemacher disposed of his plant to W. N. Curtiss, who sold the press and part of the equipment, and installed the rest of it in the office of the *Kalida Record*, of which he was the owner and editor. In December, 1912, Curtiss began to issue the *Ottoville Leader* from the press of the *Record* in Kalida and continued to do so until the spring of 1915, when he discontinued it. At the present time Ottoville is without a paper, although the *Kalida Record* devotes one page each week to Ottoville news and advertising.

## CHAPTER X.

### BANKS AND BANKING.

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#### THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OTTAWA.

The First National Bank of Ottawa was organized in 1903 with the following officers: D. N. Powell, president; S. F. DeFord, vice-president; William Annesser, cashier. This is the only national bank in Putnam county.

After twelve years of steadily increasing business, the bank issued the following statement: Capital stock, \$25,000; deposits, \$250,000; surplus, \$4,200. The management of the bank has always been conservative and economical. The present officers are as follows: David N. Powell, president; S. F. DeFord, vice-president; William Annesser, second vice-president; J. C. Jones, cashier; William Annesser, S. F. DeFord, F. W. Hoffman, J. C. Jones, James A. Maidlow, L. N. Welde, D. N. Powell, directors.

#### THE BANK OF OTTAWA COMPANY.

The Bank of Ottawa was originally organized as a private bank by I. H. Kahle, Dr. W. F. Reed and W. H. Harper, Jr., on July 10, 1894. It continued to operate as a private bank until November 26, 1904, when it was incorporated under the laws of the state of Ohio, and has continued to operate as a state bank since that date.

The first officers were: Dr. W. F. Reed, president; I. H. Kahle, vice-president; W. H. Harper, cashier. The present officers are: M. A. Kahle, president; J. W. Smith, vice-president; F. G. Kahle, cashier; G. W. Kahle, assistant cashier; Albert Kahle, assistant cashier. It has a capital stock of \$25,000, with deposits amounting to \$550,000 and a surplus of \$6,000.

This is the oldest state bank in Putnam county and has the largest deposits of any bank, either state or national, in the county. This bank has long been recognized as one of the most popular banking institutions in this section of Ohio. This is largely due to the conservative methods which the bank has at all times employed and to the fact that at the same time it has extended to its customers every courtesy consistent with conservative banking.

## CONTINENTAL BANK.

The Continental Bank was organized in 1890, with the following officers: J. H. Edwards, president; W. W. Edwards, vice-president; I. N. Bushong, cashier. This bank is unincorporated and at present the liabilities amount to \$1,000,000.

The first bank building was destroyed by fire on June 8, 1912, and the present beautiful structure was erected the following year. The bank opened up for business in its new, modern, fire- and burglar-proof quarters, which were on the south side of the railroad tracks, in October, 1913. The present officers are: J. H. Edwards, president; I. N. Bushong, vice-president; C. P. Palmer, cashier.

The Continental Bank has done an extensive real estate, mortgage and loan business and at the present time has more mortgages and loans in Putnam county than any other banking firm. Every year has shown a marked increase in the business of this bank.

## FARMERS STATE AND SAVINGS BANK.

The Farmers State and Savings Bank of Continental was organized in 1913 and opened for business on January 31, 1914, with a capital stock of \$25,000. The officers are: C. E. Wright, president; A. J. Mullet, vice-president; C. R. Blauvelt, cashier. A new building is in process of construction, at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars, and bids fair to be the best bank building in the county. Seventy-five of the best citizens of the county are stockholders. Its deposits are \$125,000, with a surplus of \$1,000, and at the end of only fifteen months' business its resources amounted to over \$153,000. This promises to be one of the strong financial institutions of the county.

## BELMORE BANKING COMPANY.

The Belmore Banking Company, of Belmore, was organized in 1908. The present officers are: D. Ensinger, president; N. Speaker, vice-president; T. J. Veach, cashier. This banking company has a capital stock of \$12,500 and deposits amounting to \$85,000.

## THE BANK OF LEIPSIC.

The Bank of Leipsic was organized in 1888. It is a private bank, with the following stockholders: J. H. Edwards, I. N. Bushong, E. C. Edwards, W. W. Edwards' estate, John Edwards' estate, F. D. Rosenberger, Ruth Lesle, Mae E. Palmer, Lucile M. Spencer, Floss E. Closson, O. P. Edwards, T. C. Edwards, S. F. Edwards, W. E. Edwards, Lillian D. Emery. J. H. Edwards is president, and F. D. Rosenberger, cashier of the bank.

## THE PEOPLE'S BANK COMPANY.

The People's Bank Company of Columbus Grove was organized in 1892. This bank is one of the oldest in the county and has been under the same management for twenty-three years. It has an authorized capital stock of \$60,000 and deposits of \$450,000, with surplus and profits of \$15,000. The present officers are: William Basinger, president; L. J. Lemley, vice-president; J. W. Core, cashier. It has had a steadily-increasing business ever since it was founded, and though there have been times when the country finances were not the best, still this bank has come through it all unscathed.

The Vaughnsville Banking Company is a branch of the People's Banking Company of Columbus Grove.

## THE PEOPLE'S BANK COMPANY.

The People's Bank Company of Kalida was organized in 1899. The present officers are: Joseph Kahle, president; Edson Seitz, vice-president; Charles A. Borman, cashier. The capital stock at present is \$25,000. The deposits aggregate \$180,000, with a surplus of \$1,250.

## THE FARMERS BANK COMPANY.

The Farmers Bank Company of Pandora was organized in 1900 and has had a steady growth since that time. The figures of this bank give the best insight into its history and management: Capital stock, \$25,000; deposits, \$181,606.48; surplus, \$6,500; resources, \$259,774.91.

The present officers are: David Risser, president; Albert Schultz, vice-president; P. A. Amstutz, cashier; W. M. Risser, secretary; Henry Grismore, treasurer.



## BELMORE BANKING COMPANY.

The Belmore Banking Company was chartered April 1, 1907. The first officers were: G. G. Bennett, president; J. W. Swickard, vice-president; C. R. Blauvelt, cashier; G. G. Bennett, C. R. Blauvelt, J. W. Swickard and Ford H. Lanning, directors. The capital paid in is \$12,500. This banking company, although still young, has had a very nice business. The present officers are: D. Ensminger, president; N. Speaker, vice-president; T. J. Veitch, cashier; J. V. Knoxe, N. Speaker, R. J. George, D. Ensminger, C. H. Stone, Mrs. James Robinson and Mrs. J. W. Wingate, directors.

## OTTOVILLE BANKING COMPANY.

The Ottoville Banking Company was incorporated under the laws of the state of Ohio, October 24, 1903, with the following incorporators: F. J. Maehlmann, John J. Miller, J. C. Wannemacher and Alpheus A. Roth. The first officers were C. J. Wannemacher, president; John J. Miller, vice-president; F. J. Maehlmann, cashier; Andrew Yocklin, Alpheus A. Roth, Edward G. Odenweller, J. H. Wannemacher, John J. Miller, J. C. Wannemacher and F. J. Maehlmann, directors. The bank was opened for business, February 1, 1904, with a capital stock and surplus of \$40,000. The present officers are: J. C. Wannemacher, president; John J. Miller, vice-president; F. J. Maehlmann, cashier; Edith Maehlmann, assistant cashier; Benedict Wannemacher, John H. Wannemacher, John J. Miller, J. C. Wannemacher, and F. J. Maehlmann, directors.

## THE OTTAWA HOME AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION.

The Ottawa Home and Savings Association was organized on July 28, 1888, with an authorized capital of \$1,000,000. The purpose of this association was the raising of money, to be loaned to its members and others, for the purpose of buying lots and building, making repairs and such other purposes as are authorized by law. Loans are made exclusively on first mortgages on real estate. The secretary and treasurer are under heavy bonds, and all officers are amenable to the state, under the criminal law, to act in good faith. The loans are made in small sums and the most rigid rules are enforced for the protection of all concerned; no loans are made outside the limits of Putnam county. The first officers were: W. W. Kelly, president; F. H. Brockman, vice-president; George C. Williams,

George D. Hamden, Calvin P. Godfrey, committee on securities; O. H. Odell, H. W. Schmitschulte; E. R. Eastman, secretary; John F. Cover, treasurer; William C. G. Krauss, attorney. The present officers are: J. S. Ogan, president; H. W. Schmitschulte, vice-president; L. E. Eastman, secretary; E. R. Eastman, attorney; directors, J. S. Ogan, H. W. Schmitschulte, Dr. Paul P. Sherwood, Herman Wise, George J. Keinath, George D. Kinder, George C. Williams. Membership is free to any resident of this county. At present the assets amount to approximately \$245,000, and the depositors receive from five to six per cent annually, contingent upon their earnings.

#### PALMER TOWNSHIP MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

The Palmer Township Mutual Fire Insurance Association was organized on December 8, 1888, having received from the secretary of state a certificate of incorporation on this date. On January 12, 1889, the incorporators held a meeting at school house number 2 in Palmer township, for the purpose of electing officers and adopting the constitution and by-laws for the association, according to law. The following officers were elected: William Schafer, president; John Williams, clerk or secretary; Victor Noirot, treasurer; J. N. Frankart, J. P. Rigg and Henry Homire, directors. The purpose of this association is to insure farm property against loss by fire, lightning and wind storms. The membership at present numbers one thousand two hundred and the mutual risks in force amount to over \$3,250,000. The present officers are: R. R. Oliver, president; Henry P. Schafer, secretary; Michael Williams, treasurer; Victor Noirot, Hanry Stuben, C. E. Wight, Ed F. Quaintance and J. G. Yetter, directors. The territory comprises fourteen townships: seven in Putnam county, three in Paulding county, two in Defiance county and two in Henry county.

#### GLANDORF GERMAN MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

The German Mutual Insurance Association, of Glandorf, was organized in 1878. It was the first mutual fire insurance association organized in the county. The purpose of this association was to insure against loss by fire, lightning and storms. There are eight hundred and ninety policies in force at the present time and the risks at present amount to \$2,080,000. The present officers are: William Gulker, president; J. W. Halker, secretary; August Fiaher, treasurer; Joseph Stichochulte, F. W. Schwester and Joseph Gerdeman, directors.

## PUTNAM COUNTY GERMAN FARMERS MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Putnam County German Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company was founded on September 19, 1895. E. B. Mphans served as the first president; B. A. Ruhe, secretary; Frank Recker, treasurer; William Kohls, G. B. Moening and Henry E. Hermiller, directors. The purpose of this organization was to insure property against loss through fire, lightning and storm; also to insure live stock against fire and lightning. Mutual assessments are made only when losses accrue and an assessment of five cents on the one hundred dollars capital paid into the treasury each year is made for current expenses and fees of officers. The membership at present numbers two hundred and fifty, with a capital stock of \$710,000. The officers at present are: Joseph Hotnire, president; Jodokus Smitz, secretary; Frank Hohenbrink, treasurer; Joseph Brickner, B. Utendorf and B. Gerdeman, directors.

## EXCHANGE BANK, COLUMBUS GROVE.

The Exchange Bank of Columbus Grove was established in 1873 by Simon Mapel and others. Several years afterwards, W. T. Mapel took possession and continued the business until about 1893, when Wilson Martin and J. M. Crawford bought his interests. In a short time a partnership was formed by J. M. Crawford, B. F. Seitz, Sr., W. L. Crawford and F. E. Palmer, and the officers were: J. M. Crawford, president; B. F. Seitz, Sr., vice-president; W. L. Crawford, cashier; F. E. Palmer, assistant cashier. This organization continued until W. L. Crawford died, in 1907, when Mr. Palmer became cashier, and W. M. Crawford, assistant cashier.

In December, 1910, Mr. Palmer sold his interests to A. M. Heidlebaugh, who became vice-president, and W. M. Crawford was elected cashier. After the death of J. M. Crawford, on May 22, 1911, B. F. Seitz, Sr., was elected president.

During January, 1914, Isaac Campbell, D. C. Campbell and F. R. Mason purchased the interest formerly owned by W. L. Crawford and this organization continued until September, 1914, when the bank was incorporated, with the capital increased to thirty thousand dollars, Homer R. Day, Henry Cupp and James J. Kissell becoming stockholders. Early in the present year, 1915, Dr. W. H. Begg and other stockholders bought the interests of Isaac Campbell and F. R. Mason. The present directors are: Homer R. Day, D. C. Campbell, Henry Cupp, B. F. Seitz, Sr., A. M. Heidlebaugh and W. M.

Crawford. The officers are: A. M. Heidlebaugh, president; B. F. Seitz, Sr., vice-president, and W. M. Crawford, cashier.

#### THE GLANDORF GERMAN BUILDING AND LOAN COMPANY.

The Glandorf German Building and Loan Company was organized in 1887 by the following citizens of Glandorf: J. H. Uphaus, William Altekruise, J. W. Halker, Joseph Horstmann, Francis Nigsch, I. H. Kahle, William Rampe, Sr., Joseph Winkelmann, Joseph Nienberg and William F. Hoffman.

The state of Ohio granted the charter for the incorporation of this company under its laws, September 24, 1887. This was the first building and loan company formed in Putnam county. The purpose of this company was the raising of money, which was to be loaned among its members. The prosperity of this company was assured from the start and the shares of stock were always in demand.

This company was first organized with a capital stock of \$250,000, which was divided into 1,000 shares of \$250 each. These shares were sold to residents of the county only. As evidence of the rapid growth of the company, the capital stock was raised to \$1,000,000.

The present officers are: J. W. Halker, president; F. W. Hoffman, treasurer; B. A. Nienberg, secretary; B. A. Unverferth, attorney; J. W. Halker, B. A. Nienberg, Theodore Deters, Matthias Kerner, F. W. Hoffmann, G. H. Uphous, J. H. Kleman, F. W. Schroeder, Theodore Heckman, P. A. Misser and John Merschmann, directors.

The money for loan was always in such demand that it was let out at auction and went to the highest bidder. The records show where this has reached as much as thirty-three cents premium and, in one instance, forty cents premium on the share of two hundred and fifty dollars and this was paid besides the regular six per cent interest.

The present status of the business is on a firm basis, although with the coming of the banks the rates of interest were cut down. The first officers were J. H. Uphaus, president; Dr. A. Borman, vice-president; H. F. Rauh, first secretary; William Altekruise, second secretary; Joseph Nienberg, treasurer; William Rampe, Sr., J. W. Halker, Ignatius Kahle, Henry Wortkoetter, Joseph Kersting and John Smith, directors.

An interesting fact is noted concerning the minutes of the meetings and the early records. The early records were written in German script, but in 1905 they were changed to English, as the inspector could not read German.

The minutes of this company are all in a good state of preservation and show the careful and business-like methods of the organization.

OTTOVILLE FARMERS MUTUAL AID ASSOCIATION.

The Farmers Mutual Aid Association of Ottoville was incorporated on February 23, 1904, and commenced business on July 2, of the same year. The first officers of the incorporation were as follows: President, Max Winkelman; secretary, George Altenburger; treasurer, Anton Hoehn; directors, John H. Wannemacher, A. J. Yocklin, Joseph Miehl, Charles F. Henry and Henry Giesken.

The company's charter does not limit its territory, although all the policies are held in the counties of Putnam, Van Wert, Paulding and Allen. Fire insurance in the company covers all losses by both fire and lightning, whether on farm property, in the shape of dwellings or barns, or on live stock. All losses are covered by assessments, which may be made at the discretion of the directors. The success of the company has been remarkable from the start. The last annual statement of the secretary, George Altenburger, on December 31, 1914, shows that the company has 813 risks in force, with a gross amount of policies totaling \$2,181,412.00. The total losses in 1914 amounted to \$250.13, of which \$129 was fire loss and \$121.13, loss by lightning. From the beginning of its existence down to the end of 1914, the company has only paid out \$17,566.76 for losses, thus demonstrating that insurance in the company has cost the policy-holders less than one per cent on the hundred. This is sufficient reason why the company has met with such success and is proof that its future success is assured.

The present officers are as follows: President, W. T. Remlinger; secretary, George Altenburger; treasurer, Charles Rekart; directors, John H. Wannemacher, Joseph Miehl, William Schlagbaum, William Stretker and D. F. Miller.

PEOPLES BANK, COLUMBUS GROVE.

The Peoples Bank was organized in 1892 by G. W. Core, with Christian Basinger, L. J. Lemley, Lewis Lemley and David Core as partners, Christian Basinger being president; L. J. Lemley, vice-president, and G. W. Core, cashier. Later David Core retired from the partnership and the bank was operated as a private bank until 1906, when a charter was taken out under state law, with an authorized capital of sixty thousand dollars. In 1909 a branch bank was established at Vaughnsville. In 1914 Christian Basinger was succeeded as president by his son, William. G. W. Core, cashier, is the active manager of the bank.

## CHAPTER XI.

### SECRET SOCIETIES, FRATERNITIES AND CLUBS.

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#### FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

Ottawa Lodge No. 325, Free and Accepted Masons, was chartered on October 16, 1860, at Ottawa, Ohio. Its charter members were John P. Simons, Elias Farabee, L. Swazey, C. Ewing, C. M. Godfrey, J. L. Olney, George Morehead, C. J. Mann, A. Budd, William Lowry, William Robinson, Isaac Allen, Jacob Lentzy, Nutter Powell, T. E. Paul, J. S. Conine, H. V. Watts and George Springer. J. L. Olney is the only charter member now living.

The following members have served the lodge as past masters: C. M. Godfrey, H. V. Watts, L. W. Moe, C. J. Swan, J. L'H. Long, N. E. Matthews, H. M. Summers, J. W. Brown, J. J. Zeller, C. E. Row, A. L. Paul, W. H. Loy, E. R. Eastman, A. P. Sandles, S. F. DeFord, J. W. Smith, Herman Wise, P. P. Sherwood and F. M. Ackerman.

The membership at present numbers one hundred and thirty-six. The officers are: W. R. Deck, worshipful master; L. E. Eastman, senior warden; Ralph U. Hall, junior warden; Herman Wise, treasurer, and A. Graham, secretary.

#### ROYAL ARCH MASONS.

Ottawa Chapter No. 115, Royal Arch Masons, was chartered on October 16, 1869, with the following charter members: J. L'H. Long, L. W. Moe, Elias W. Green, Charles Schimpff, C. M. Godfrey, W. F. Reed, C. J. Swan, D. N. McCullough, A. J. Taylor, J. B. Sprague, Alexander Slemmons, Jacob Werner and Anderson Reeder.

The high priests who have served the chapter up to the present time are: J. L'H. Long, C. J. Swan, T. D. Campbell, C. E. Row, Joseph Justice, A. L. Paul, F. M. Ackerman, N. E. Matthews, W. H. Loy, C. H. Rice, S. F. DeFord, G. E. Jones, J. W. Smith, A. M. Heidlebaugh, E. V. Burns and C. W. Fogle.

The present membership numbers one hundred and eighty-seven. The

present officers are: Charles C. Cass, high priest; J. W. Brown, king; Herman McDougle, scribe; Herman Wise, treasurer; A. Graham, secretary.

#### ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS.

Putnam Council No. 69, Royal and Select Masters, was chartered on March 13, 1879, with the following charter members: J. L'H. Long, H. N. Gessells, N. E. Matthews, G. D. Kinder, L. W. Moe, W. F. Reed, A. Reeder, J. B. Sprague and H. C. Sherrard.

The following have served the council as thrice illustrious master: J. L'H. Long, N. E. Matthews, A. L. Paul, E. L. Frey, Joseph Justice, F. M. Ackerman, W. H. Loy, S. F. DeFord, W. S. Zeller, J. W. Brown, W. H. Handy, J. W. Smith and E. R. Eastman.

The present officers are Herman McDougle, thrice illustrious master; E. V. Burns, deputy master; Charles C. Cass, principal conductor of work; Herman Wise, treasurer, and A. Graham, recorder. The membership numbers one hundred and sixty-five.

#### MASONS AT COLUMBUS GROVE.

Rufus Putnam Lodge No. 364, Free and Accepted Masons, at Columbus Grove, was chartered on May 26, 1866. The following were charter members: E. W. Greene, John Sheets, Allen Edmonds, S. Sanders, A. Reeder, W. L. Hartly, J. B. Sprague, H. H. Gessell, William Onem and J. B. Fruchey. Of these ten charter members, only two survive, H. H. Gessell and Allen Edmonds. Orren Curtis bears the distinction of being the first worshipful master. The membership at present numbers one hundred and thirty-two.

#### INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

April 25, 1907, was the eighty-eighth anniversary of Odd Fellowship. On April 25, 1819, five men met in Baltimore, Maryland, and organized what now numbers a membership of over a million people. This lodge was named the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and one hundred thousand members of the order are now connected with the lodges in Ohio alone.

Blanchard Lodge is the oldest lodge in Putnam county, having been instituted on June 2, 1855. Up to the annual meeting of the grand lodge, in May, 1906, this lodge had initiated two hundred and fifty-three members, and over four thousand five hundred dollars had been paid to members as

sick benefits, two hundred and forty-five dollars and fifty-five cents devoted to the relief of widows and orphans and eight hundred and fifty-one dollars and twenty-seven cents expended for charity. The lodge now has a membership of seventy-five and eight other lodges have been organized in the county since Blanchard Lodge was first organized. In July, 1864, the lodge purchased the lot upon which its temple now stands, and the elegant structure was erected a few years ago.

#### GILBOA LODGE.

Gilboa Lodge No. 459, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was chartered on August 8, 1870. The names of the charter members cannot be given, as the lodge room was destroyed by fire on August 8, 1875, and all the records were destroyed. A new charter was granted on December 23, 1876. The membership numbered seventy-two on January 1, 1915, of which number forty-four were past grands.

The amount paid out for sick benefits in the last eighteen years has averaged only one hundred dollars per year, or one thousand eight hundred in all. The amount paid for charity and special relief in the same time has amounted to eight hundred and fifty-eight dollars.

The present officers are Sherman Ketner, noble grand; P. W. Davis, vice-grand; W. H. Tobias, recording secretary; L. G. Phillips, financial secretary; J. G. Knepper, treasurer; Isaac Bracy, H. Harris and M. P. Orenbaugh, trustees.

#### LEIPSIC LODGE.

Leipsic Lodge No. 536, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted on May 15, 1872, with ten charter members. Two of the charter members are still living, Martin Bowman and L. H. Casteel. This lodge has paid out five thousand dollars for sick benefits. The present membership is sixty.

Leipsic Encampment, Patriarchs Militant, was chartered August 9, 1877, with sixteen charter members.

#### DUPONT LODGE.

Dupont Lodge was instituted at Dupont, on November 11, 1882, with the following charter members: C. R. Bram, S. M. Reed, W. R. Castle, Alonzo Pitcher, John Dray, W. L. Wollam, Austin Combs, Samuel Stuckey, S. Barnard, J. Wagner, G. W. Stuckey, Philip Kessler and David Jenkins. Samuel Stuckey served as the first noble grand.



The present building was erected in 1900, at a cost of two thousand dollars. This building has furnished the members with spacious lodge rooms in which to conduct their meetings. The following are serving the lodge as officers at the present time: W. E. Cullen, Frank Reynolds, W. H. Thomas, C. C. Etter, John Meyers, A. B. Etter, Alonzo Pitcher and W. T. Etter. The present membership numbers forty-seven. The sick benefits as provided by this lodge are three dollars per week.

#### TOWNWOOD LODGE.

Townwood Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted in December, 1902. The names of the charter members are as follows: W. F. Coakly, Jay Ott, John Coakly, John Bolix, Vinton McAter, R. A. Davenport, George Clemence, George Mulford, Cyrus Payne, B. B. Brundy, F. Gunther, James Robinson, J. B. Fisher, Winnie Wilson, William Wilson, A. D. Reynolds and J. C. Vanhead. J. B. Fisher and J. C. Vanhead served the lodge first in the capacity of noble grand. The chief officers who are now serving the lodge are L. M. Walker and John Trott.

The present beautiful and commodious building was erected in December, 1902, at a cost of one thousand five hundred dollars, and has accommodated the members since the institution of the lodge. The present membership numbers fifty-five.

#### COLUMBUS GROVE LODGE.

Columbus Grove Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted in 1870, with the following charter members: Henry Hemuck, E. G. Ford, W. Breckbill, J. D. Genett, Jacob Sheets, William Chase, John Keller, Frederick Doriat and A. T. Ransom. The present membership numbers eighty-six. The amount paid out for sick benefits up to date is one hundred and twenty-five dollars and twenty-five cents.

#### INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

Blanchard Lodge No. 284, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was chartered on June 2, 1855, with the following charter members: John Dixon, Lorenzo Parker, David I. Brown, John Monroe, Henry Niles, John B. Fruchey and Jacob Bressler. Jacob Bressler was the first noble grand.

On February 22, 1901, a building committee was appointed to draw plans for the erection of a lodge building. Samuel Cartwright, C. H. Rice

and W. S. Hipkins were chosen to carry out this work. On March 1 of the same year work was begun on the building. On December 30, 1901, permission was received from the grand master of the grand lodge to move the records to the new home. C. O. Periman bears the distinction of being the first man initiated in the new rooms, February 14, 1902.

The membership of the lodge has increased until at the present time it includes eighty-four active members. The present officers are S. O. Kerr, noble grand; W. E. Smith, vice-grand; D. R. Jenkins, Jr., treasurer; G. M. Cartwright, secretary.

#### KNIGHTS OF THE MACCABEES.

Ottawa Chapter No. 160, Knights of the Maccabees, was chartered on August 1, 1893, with sixteen charter members. This was the only chapter of Knights of the Maccabees ever installed in this county. This chapter has never been very active in its work and saw the greatest years of its prosperity while still young. At present this lodge has only five members.

#### NATIONAL UNION.

Sheridan Council No. 126, of the National Union, was organized in Ottawa, in August, 1888. There were thirty charter members. The membership reached forty-two at one time, but lapses, removals and deaths have reduced the live membership until at the present time it consists of only sixteen persons. The National Union has paid every death claim in full, without one cent of cost to the beneficiary. It is one of the best and cheapest fraternal insurance companies in existence today.

#### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS.

Ottawa Council No. 1757, Knights of Columbus, was organized in Ottawa, in June, 1914, with sixty-five charter members. At present the membership numbers one hundred and seven. The officers are as follow: Joseph Kersting, grand knight; H. Edward Heckford, financial secretary. The purpose of this order is purely social and for insurance.

#### CATHOLIC KNIGHTS OF OHIO.

SS. Peter and Paul Branch No. 42, Catholic Knights of Ohio, was organized on June 12, 1893, at Ottawa, Ohio. There were twenty charter

members. The membership at present is approximately one hundred. It is purely an insurance order.

There are branches of this order in the following towns of Putnam county: Glandorf, Leipsic, Ft. Jennings, Miller City, Ottoville, Kalida, New Cleveland and Cloverdale.

#### THE RESEARCH CLUB.

The Research Club was founded in 1910 with the following charter members: Mrs. J. O. Cartwright, Mrs. George Jenkins, Mrs. Charles Mills, Mrs. C. B. Van Clue, Mrs. G. H. Williams, Mrs. P. D. Ward, Mrs. Frank Wilson, Mrs. G. F. Zeller, Miss Florence McClure, Miss Violet Sackett, Miss Grace Ward and Miss Lulu Walkup. Miss Florence McClure, president; Mrs. J. O. Cartwright, vice-president; Mrs. George Jenkins, secretary, and Miss Violet Sackett, treasurer, served as the first officers of the club.

The purpose of this club was to promote interest in the welfare of the community in which its members lived; to study and discuss the important questions of the day, and to familiarize themselves not only with our own country, but also the leading countries and islands in the Old World. The club has already studied rather thoroughly all the countries of the Old World and has taken up many of the greatest things of the United States. The work laid out for last year was "The World's Islands." For 1915-16, "The World's Islands," continued, and miscellaneous work.

The present members are Mrs. J. O. Cartwright, Mrs. Flora Frick, Mrs. C. L. Miller, Mrs. C. J. Moore, Mrs. D. N. Powell, Mrs. H. M. Summers, Mrs. G. H. Williams, Mrs. P. D. Ward, Mrs. Frank Wilson, Mrs. G. F. Zeller, Miss May Handy, Miss Florence McClure, Miss Grace Ward and Miss Sadie Wilkins. President, Mrs. H. M. Summers; vice-president, Mrs. D. N. Powell; secretary, Mrs. J. O. Cartwright; treasurer, Mrs. G. H. Williams.

#### KAPPA PHI DELTA.

The Kappa Phi Delta Club, at Ottawa, was organized in February, 1910, with nine charter members, as follows: Effie L. Arnold, Alta M. Thrapp, Ruth C. Frey, Bessie I. Seitz, Iva A. Gillis, Zelma McDowell, May Handy, Mrs. Belle D. Miller and Mrs. Carrie W. Bell. The first officers included the following: Effie L. Arnold, president; Alta M. Thrapp, vice-president; Ruth C. Frey, secretary; Bessie I. Seitz, treasurer. The purpose of the club is set

forth in its motto: "Working, not wishing; doing, not dreaming; boosting, not knocking."

The present membership includes twelve young ladies of Ottawa: Effie L. Arnold, Alta M. Thrapp, Ruth C. Frey, Zelma McDowell, May Handy, Evelyn Wilson, Mary Wilkins, Arey Claypool, Bertha McDugal, Lucy Agner, Mrs. Carrie Bell and Mrs. Leona Kerr. The officers for 1915 are as follows: Alta M. Thrapp, president; Zelma McDowell, vice-president; Mary Wilkins, secretary; Bessie I. Seitz, treasurer. The club is a member of the Ottawa federation of clubs.

#### PUTNAM CLUB.

The Putnam Club Company was chartered as an incorporation under the laws of the state of Ohio on April 4, 1904. The founders were Even R. Davis, M. P. Goetschins, A. R. Robenalt, F. G. Kahle and E. L. Frey.

The purpose of this club was not for material gain, but it was organized for literary and social culture and mental improvement. The citizens of Ottawa had no place to assemble for sociable gatherings and the founders took this means of providing a suitable place.

This club was capitalized at one thousand dollars, which was divided into forty shares and sold at twenty-five dollars a share, the proceeds of which were used for maintaining club rooms for members of the corporation and their guests and purchasing fixtures. The club rooms are fitted up with every convenience for the literary and social development of its members.

This club has had a steady increase in membership, which speaks well for the foresight of its founders, and at present totals sixty-six. The officers are: J. S. Ogin, president; N. E. Matthews, treasurer; J. W. Brown, secretary.

#### CATHOLIC LADIES OF COLUMBIA.

St. Anne's Council No. 7, Catholic Ladies of Columbia, was chartered on June 4, 1897, with the following charter members: Philomena Lehmkuhle, Lucinda M. Brinkle, Elizabeth Kraft, Mary A. Schmitschulte, Elizabeth C. Leopold, Catherine Brinkman, Mary Catherine Hansel, Sarah McGreevy, Mary Clohosey, Catherine Amelia Kracht and Elizabeth M. Schmitschulte. The present membership numbers forty-two and fifteen additional applications were presented at the monthly meeting held on the second Tuesday in May.

The present officers are: Mary A. Schmitschulte, president; Anna Kersting, vice-president; Mary Rothman, recording secretary; Mary Brinkle, financial secretary; Elizabeth Kraft, treasurer; Frances Kreinbrink, monitor.

The purpose of this organization is purely insurance and sick benefits. There is also a relief department in connection with the insurance, which is optional with the members. Members of the relief department are paid five dollars a week when sick.

#### THE CENTENNIAL CLUB.

On February 26, 1913, Mrs. S. F. DeFord, who is a charter member of the Centennial Club, read before that body a paper which set forth the history of the club from the beginning to that time. It would be useless to try and give the history of this organization in better style than used by Mrs. DeFord, therefore we will print this article, with Mrs. DeFord's consent, as it was written:

"Thirty-seven years ago this month when the frost was on the snow, and the moonlight rays were bending low, and sparkling diamonds from their beds spread radiance o'er many heads, a company of ladies and gentlemen started for a delightful sleigh ride to Kalida to spend the evening. On the way, the conversation, which was in keeping with the frosty air and the beautiful snow, turned upon schools and literary clubs. Literary clubs were a scarce medium of exchange at this time, there being only one in the whole state of Ohio. The ladies particularly talked about literary clubs, and the more they talked and thought about them, the more enthusiastic they became on the subject. Finally, they came to the conclusion that they would start one in Ottawa for the women of the town who might be interested in a purely literary organization.

"I was not fortunate enough to be a member of the Kalida party on that eventful night, but the next morning two women, Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Kinder, came to my home to talk over the question with me. Of course, I was very much interested in the establishment of such an organization as they proposed, and at once entered into the project with enthusiasm. I thought a club of this nature would be a great asset to ladies of Ottawa, although I had a baby only eighteen months old and could not be expected to give much time to the new undertaking.

"The following week nine of the women of Ottawa met at the home of Mrs. J. L. H. Long to talk over the proposed club. We discussed it from every angle and it was the consensus of opinion that some organization of

this character was very much needed in this village. Practically all of the women had been more or less active in literary work, but to follow a system and be bound to a constitution and by-laws was different.

"After due deliberation and a determined conviction on the part of the ladies that such an undertaking, with the earnest support of all, could be made a success, a motion was made by Mrs. Moore to organize ourselves into a club. This motion was unanimously carried and, since this was the centennial year of our independence as a nation, the club was christened the Ladies Centennial Book Club. I was chosen as the first president, but I do not recall the other early officers. We drafted a little constitution and by-laws, which was to govern our early activities. The charter members of this organization were as follows: Mrs. Long, Mrs. Paul, Mrs. Ewing, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Krause, Mrs. Morehead, Mrs. Kinder and Mrs. Laskey. Of this number, only three are left as active members of the club. Five have passed over the great divide. There are five living members, although two resigned their membership years ago, Mrs. Ewing, who resides in St. Louis, and Mrs. Adelia Allen, who still lives in Ottawa. The three remaining active members are Mrs. Kinder, Mrs. Paul and myself. There is a strong, mystic chord of memory stretching down through the years that have linked these three members together in close ties of friendship. One of the articles in the constitution that was drafted to govern us was that officers should be elected every three months. Another one of the rules was that the president should appoint a program committee each evening to arrange for a program for the next meeting; they would retire to another room and assign duties for the different members. This was very unsatisfactory inasmuch as it gave only one week to prepare our topics. I was re-elected twice, serving nine months in all.

"We frequently had charades, especially if we were having guests. We also had a 'budget box' and a budget reader was elected to deliver these articles as long as she held office. As time passed and we became better informed and in closer touch with parliamentary rules and regulations in club work, we decided to revise our constitution, and this was accomplished by a committee and adopted in October, 1877. We have revised the constitution once since that date and a few minor changes have been made at different times.

"The membership fee was fixed at three dollars and yearly dues of one dollar and fifty cents, payable in installments. I do not recall how long this state of affairs lasted, but we always had plenty of money in the treasury and practically no expenses. A scheme was now adopted to purchase books, as

there was no public library in Ottawa. A librarian was appointed and each member was allotted a certain number of books to read and if no report was made to the librarian in two weeks they were fined ten cents. At the close of the year a committee was appointed to arrange the books in lots of equal price and quality, in as many lots as there were members in the club, each lot being numbered, then slips of paper being made corresponding to the number of books. These slips were put into a box and each member drew a slip, thus drawing a lot of books which corresponded with the number on the slip. This system worked very well. As the membership of the club increased, we desired to branch out along other literary lines and took for our work the lecture field. Our first venture was with Susan B. Anthony, who was secured for a certain amount and all arrangements made for her entertainment, when her agent informed us that she had cancelled all her engagements on account of ill-health. Our failure in this venture only spurred us on and we secured Mary A. Livermore. This was a marked success, financially and socially. The lecture was held in the old opera house, now used for a business college, the admission charge being three dollars. The lecture was attended not only by the club members but by a gratifying representation of others in sympathy with our endeavors.

"During the first few years our programs were largely impromptu, but gradually, as the movement grew, greater thought was given to this feature and many pleasing diversions were created for the entertainment of the members, especially as the club boasted of several adepts who lent their skill to this end with gratifying success. Several playlets were given, among which were, "The Elevator Boy," a delightful little piece of comedy, and "Fing Wing," a Chinese playlet, with a judicial setting. In the former, Gordon Kinder, then a young lad, played the title role, the playlet being given at the Kinder residence. "Fing Wing" was given at the residence of Mrs. Krause, Mrs. Cover proving very entertaining in the role of "Fing Wing," with splendid fidelity to the Chinese dialect and mannerisms. This playlet consisted of a trial by jury, to which I acted the part of judge and this entailed the preparation of a long and laborious charge at the end of the trial. All the members took part in this playlet and, needless to say, passed a delightful time and one long to be remembered for its happy associations. On these occasions guests were invited, consisting, in the main, of husbands of the club members.

"We were all young then, thirty-nine years ago, filled with life and energy and a supreme desire to cultivate the social atmosphere of this community. It is on record that Mrs. Paul is the "mother" of the club, for her

only son was the first child born after our organization. Now we are grandmothers and it is gratifying to know that the seed sown thirty-nine years ago has borne fruit and that this work is being carried forward by the younger generation, who have caught the spirit and infused it with the newer and richer life of today.

"As the years have passed, new faces have entered our circle of twenty-five, among whom were Mrs. Gentry, Mrs. Cover, Mrs. Lentzy, Mrs. Pomeroy, Mrs. Meiley, Mrs. Matthews, Mrs. Beardsley, Mrs. Sprague, Mrs. Rice, Mrs. Reed, Mrs. C. H. Rice, and the Misses Holtz, Pugh, Sweeney.

"The work of this club has still increased up to the present time and it is the strongest literary club in Ottawa. It is a member of the local and national federation of clubs and bears the distinction of being the second oldest literary club in the state.

"With the beginning of each year, a program is arranged, covering the entire year and each member can be prepared on their assigned subject. Officers serve for one year and new members are elected by ballot, in case there is an opening."

The present officers of the Centennial Club are as follows: Mrs. C. H. Rice, president; Mrs. S. F. DeFord, first vice-president; Mrs. D. M. Bailey, second vice-president; Mrs. C. O. Beardsley, recording secretary; Mrs. A. L. Paul, corresponding secretary; Mrs. J. S. Ogan, treasurer; Mrs. F. P. Sprague, librarian; Cynthia Pugh, critic.

#### THE STUDY CLUB.

The Study Club of Ottawa was organized in 1908 with the following charter members: Mrs. Evan Davis, Mrs. Harry Allen, Mrs. M. P. Goetschius, Mrs. Sigmond Wise, Mrs. C. P. Godfrey, Mrs. G. W. Risser, Mrs. C. F. Madaris, Mrs. A. S. Johnson, Mrs. Charles Morrison, Mrs. Mary Reed, Mrs. E. L. Frey, Miss B. K. Krauss and Miss Zoe Kelly. The purpose of this club is for social and literary advantages, gained through united research and mutual assistance.

The present officers are as follows: Mrs. E. L. Frey, president; Mrs. Sigmond Wise, vice-president; Mrs. F. G. Kahle, secretary; Mrs. R. W. LaBaron, treasurer; Mrs. Mary Reed, librarian; Mrs. G. J. Keinath, critic. The present membership includes the following: Mrs. R. A. Alt, Mrs. E. L. Frey, Mrs. C. P. Godfrey, Mrs. H. E. Hirn, Mrs. G. J. Keinath, Mrs. F. G. Kahle, Mrs. R. W. LaBaron, Mrs. J. T. Maidlow, Mrs. Mary Reed, Mrs. L. C. Sonnanstine, Mrs. Sigmond Wise, Mrs. Herman Wise, Mrs. Roy East-



man, Mrs. Frank Donart, Mrs. M. P. Goetschius, Misses Lena Bailey, Florence Graham, Stella Kersting and Zoe Light.

#### FEDERATION OF CLUBS.

The Federation of Clubs of Ottawa was organized on November 21, 1913. The first officers were: Mrs. S. F. DeFord, president; Mrs. Mary Reed, first vice-president; Mrs. J. O. Cartwright, second vice-president; Altha Thrapp, third vice-president; Mrs. E. L. Fry, recording secretary; Mrs. Fred Zeller, corresponding secretary; Mrs. D. N. Powell, treasurer. The Federation of Clubs was organized for purely civic purposes and has been instrumental in establishing clean-up days in Ottawa. At the time of a terrible mine disaster in the southern part of the state, it sent a box of provisions to the stricken people. It also sent a box on the Christmas ship to Belgium. The Federation includes all the four clubs of the town, although membership in one of the clubs does not necessarily imply membership in the Federation. In addition, it includes members who are not affiliated with any of the four clubs of the town. Mrs. Fred Zeller was elected president at the last regular election of officers, but resigned in favor of the vice-president, Mrs. Frank P. Sprague. The other officers include the following: Mrs. Elma McDowell, second vice-president; Grace Ward, recording secretary; Zoe Light, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Frank Wilson, treasurer.

#### WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union has been in Putnam for several years and has done some notable work in advancing the cause of temperance. The officers of the Union for 1915 are as follows: President, Mrs. Della Layport; vice-president, Mrs. Minnie Harris; corresponding secretary, Mrs. A. M. Heidlebaugh; recording secretary, Mrs. Francis Beach; treasurer, Amelia Jones; chorister, Mrs. R. T. Evans; Y. P. B. secretary, Mrs. Bessie Kuntz; L. T. L. secretary, Mrs. Bessie Collar.

There are now seventeen local organizations in the county, as follows: Leipsic, 125 members; Continental, 121 members; Columbus Grove, 80 members; Gilboa, 56 members; Vaughnsville, 45 members; Ottawa River, 30 members; Ottawa, 40 members; Belmore, 21 members; Pandora, 18 members; Miller City, 16 members; Cloverdale, 15 members; Forest Grove, 15 members; Kalida, 13 members; Rushmore, 12 members; North Creek, 9 members; Dupont, 8 members; Mt. Zion, 5 members.

## CHAPTER XII.

### THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

The present generation little realizes the conditions under which the early physicians of Putnam county had to labor. There were few roads and for several years these were nearly impassable for a great part of the year. This fact made it necessary for the doctors to do most of their traveling on horseback and the family physician, with his pill-bags swung over the back of his horse, was one of the most familiar, and at the same time one of the most welcome, sights to the early pioneers of the county. The swampy condition of the county was very conducive to fevers and ague and so common were these kindred complaints that the expression, "fevernague," came to be a household word. With the clearing up of the dense forests and the draining of the swamps, the dreaded malaria gradually disappeared and more fashionable diseases became prevalent.

The early physicians were not trained scientists, but they administered their few simple remedies in an efficient manner and were doubtless as successful with the diseases with which they had to cope as the physicians of today. There were few medical colleges before the Civil War, and very few of the early practitioners had an extensive knowledge of medicine. It was not until several years after the war that graduates of regular medical colleges located in the county, most of the early physicians receiving their training in the office of some local physician.

An effort has been made to collect a list of all the more important physicians of the county and in the appended list they have been arranged in the order in which they settled in the various towns of the county. There may be some who have been omitted, but the list contains those whose labors have made them remembered by a grateful people.

Ottawa—Calvin T. Pomeroy, C. M. Godfrey, George B. Fuller, E. K. Allen, J. K. Matthews, Clark, C. E. Beardsley, C. E. Tupper, Truman E. Paul, L. W. Moe, A. L. Paul, Frank Light, W. F. Reed, A. F. Sheibly, C. O. Beardsley, Eugene Tupper, Stevenson and O. J. Owens.

Kalida—Moses Lee, Andrew McClure, R. P. Cole, John T. Thrift, Robert Thrift, W. F. Reed, J. D. Watterson, C. F. Douglass, J. D. Siddall, Francis.

Leipsic—George Springer, J. C. McClung, Louisa M. Emery, J. E. Newman, W. H. Hickey, H. C. Ruhl, Reed, Burns.

Gilboa—Freeman H. Paul, Alford, L. W. Moe, Luce, Reynolds, A. C. Matthias, J. E. Newman, Ray, Black.

Columbus Grove—Turner, M. E. Olds, Frank Morris, Joseph Morris, John T. Thrift, George A. Light, Begg, Breckbill, Balmer, Wilcox, Cone, H. H. Sink.

Dupont—Eli Dimmock, Hixon, E. H. Bird, W. R. Stateler.

Continental—B. E. Walterson, B. D. Sparling, S. M. Allen, H. A. Lewis.

Glandorf—Herbert Huber, Borman, Northop, Harrod.

Pandora—Hiram Day, P. D. Bixell, H. A. Neiswander, Hilty.

Vaughnsville—P. L. Cole, McKinley, E. P. Limley.

Ottoville—Skinner, O. Hully, Wolfe.

Francona—Cooper, DeWeise.

West Leipsic—Joseph Emery, Samuel Emery.

Ft. Jennings—J. F. George, Stephens.

Miller City—L. E. Deuble.

Cloverdale—Stephan.

Belmore—Adrian.

Rushmore—J. H. Jenkins.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### COURTS AND LAWYERS.

The first term of court ever held in Putnam county convened on the 5th day of May, 1834, at the house of Abraham Sarber, in the town of Kalida, and the record says:

"Present—William Cochran, Henry Morris and Silas McClish, associate judges, who produced their commissions from his Excellency Robert Lucas, the governor of the state, endorsed by B. Hinkson, secretary of the state. The associate judges were sworn in taking the oath to support the Constitution of the United States and State, 'and to do equal justice to the poor and the rich, and to faithfully and impartially discharge their duties.'"

The court then appointed Daniel W. Gray as clerk pro tem., who gave a bond of ten thousand dollars for the faithful discharge of his duties, with Abraham Sarber, Samuel V. Ramsey and Thomas Gray as bondsmen. Amos Evans, Esq., was appointed prosecuting attorney. Abraham Sarber was appointed director for the town of Kalida. Thomas Gray, William Priddy and Samuel Myers were appointed county commissioners. Ferdinand C. Fitch was appointed county surveyor, to fill a vacancy. Samuel Myers, John M. Cochran, Isaac Owens, Arthur E. Martin, James Nicholas and Daniel Gray were appointed as examiners of common schools.

It was ordered by the court that two justices of the peace be allowed Blanchard and Sugar Creek townships and that the first Saturday in June, 1834, be appointed as the day for the election of said officers in said townships.

At a special session of the court, held August 18, 1834, convened for the purpose of appointing a sheriff and coroner to fill the vacancies now existing in those offices by reason of the omission to hold the election heretofore ordered by said court, it was ordered that William Cochran, Jr., be appointed sheriff and that William Turner be appointed as coroner.

### TAVERN LICENSES.

It was ordered that Arthur E. Martin be granted a license to keep a tavern at his residence on Front street in the town of Kalida until the next

term of the court, and at which time Martin was ordered to produce the treasurer's receipt for five dollars, which was the amount to be paid per annum for keeping a tavern.

It was ordered that William Cochran be granted a license to keep a tavern at his residence in Jennings township when he produced the treasurer's receipt for the payment of five dollars for the ensuing year.

A special session of the court was held at the house of Sheldon Guthrie in the town of Kalida, March 20, 1835. The bond of William Turner, as coroner, was approved, the bondsmen being Adam Turner and McDaniel Osborn.

A regular session of the court was held at the court house in Kalida, in April, 1835. Present, George B. Holt, president, and William Cochran, Silas McClish and Henry Morris, associate judges.

#### FIRST GRAND JURY.

The following persons were called as grand jurors and entered upon the discharge of their duties: Joseph Teegarden, John Guffy, James Turner, Peter Buzzard, Henry Davis, James D. Wamsley, William Ramsey, Moses Sutton, Caleb Gaskill, Alexander Cochran, Obed Martin, John Hand, James Nicholas, Jr., McDaniel Osborne and Benjamin Clevenger. All answered to their names, except Joseph Teegarden, Henry Davis, Alex Cochran and James Nicholas, Jr., in whose places the sheriff returned from the bystanders the following: Isaac McCracken, Robert McCracken, John Lisk, and John Ridenour. Benjamin Clevenger was appointed foreman. Court adjourned until the next morning.

Mr. Phillips was granted a license to keep a tavern at his residence in Kalida, on producing satisfactory evidence to the court that lawful notice of his intention had been given, and that he sustains a good moral character, that he is a suitable man, and is provided with suitable accommodations.

#### FIRST CASE IN COUNTY COURT.

The first case which came up before the court was that of Joshua Wagonseller vs. Jacob Dewees, in chancery. It was ordered that a notice in this case be published for four weeks in the *Saturday Evening Post*, a newspaper published in Philadelphia, and that a copy of this notice be posted on the door of the court house for four months previous to the next term of court.

It was ordered that three justices of the peace be allowed to the newly

organized townships, making the number as follows: Monroe, one; Riley, two; Ottawa, two, and Greensburg, one, and that there be allowed one for Union township. It was further ordered that elections be held on the 16th day of May, for these justices of the peace.

Court again convened in April, 1835. Isaac McHenry, aged seventy-two years, a resident of this county, came into court and made a declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 11, 1832, granting pensions to soldiers of the Revolutionary War, and his declaration was certified to the war department.

It was ordered that Sheldon Guthrie, James Taylor, F. C. Fitch, Richard Lee and Moses Lee be appointed as school examiners.

The grand jury came into court and presented six indictments. Of the six indictments, four were for selling spirits without license.

#### ATTORNEYS.

There is no official record of the many attorneys who have practiced in Putnam county and it has been difficult to compile a list of the lawyers who have practiced at various times in the county. In the following compilation, they are listed by towns, and an effort has been made to give them in the order in which they settled in the town. Many of them, of course, began practicing in one town and later moved to another town, and especially is this true of the early lawyers of Kalida. Practically all of the attorneys of Kalida moved to Ottawa when the county seat was moved to the latter place in the latter part of the sixties.

*Ottawa*—J. B. Woodruff, T. J. Logan, D. I. Brown, Richard Lameson, Charles A. Wright, Azariah Budd, Day Pugh, James R. Linn, James Anderson, Eli Holmes, Josiah Gallup, C. J. Swan, H. F. Knowles, John Buchanan, Stansbury Sutton, Joseph Foll, J. J. Moore, W. C. G. Krauss, Christian Barr, R. W. Barton, Alexander Moore, Martin Knupp, A. L. Thomas, A. V. Watts, George H. Knupp, J. S. Ogan, W. H. Kinder, James T. Lentzy, Hugh McClure, J. M. Sheets, John P. Bailey, D. C. Long, L. E. Holtz, George Fritz, E. R. Eastman, Charles Troyer, James Bethard, J. P. Leasure, D. M. Bailey, D. N. Powell, J. H. Straman, G. W. Risser, John E. Todd, W. W. Sutton, W. H. Handy, Guy C. Long, B. A. Unverferth, C. S. Malone, Hiram Summers, Albert H. Straman, Edward F. Weiser, J. W. Smith, Frank Firman, C. W. Fawcett, Ralph Pugh, Gilson Moore, B. L. Griffith, W. H. Leete, Benjamin Griffith and L. E. Eastman.

*Kalida*—F. H. Gillette, A. A. Skinner, W. L. Berge, John Norris, J. M.

Palmer, Benjamin Metcalf, James McKenzie, J. J. Ackerman, W. H. Ball, A. Monroe and Charles Veach. Veach is the only attorney now practicing in Kalida.

*Columbus Grove*—N. W. Ogan, Elam Day, Sidney Sanders, W. C. Tingle, Guy Killen, H. S. Core, Chester C. Rimer and N. E. Mallahan.

*Continental*—A. J. McClure, Charles Varner, E. L. Hartman and J. C. Madden.

The following is a list of the judges of various courts from the organization of the county, in 1834, up to the present time:

#### ASSOCIATE JUDGES.

Previous to 1834, or until the county was organized, this county had no distinctive judges, as the territory was attached to Williams county for judicial purposes.

In 1834 the first associate judges were elected and the bench consisted of the following persons: William Cochran, Henry Morris and Silas McClish. These judges served until the year 1845. Silas McClish was elected as presiding judge in 1842.

In 1845, George Skinner and Jonathan Sackett were elected as associate judges and served until 1853, when a new state constitution went into effect.

#### COMMON PLEAS JUDGES.

The court of common pleas was created in 1853 by the enactment of the new constitution. The following have served the county in that capacity: 1853-57, John M. Palmer; 1857-58, M. C. Whiteley; 1858-65, Benjamin F. Metcalf (died in office); 1865, O. W. Rose (served eight months; died in office); 1865-1878, James McKenzie; 1878-79, Charles Hughes (district changed in this year); 1879-1885, John J. Moore; 1885-94, W. H. Handy; 1894-99, John M. Sheets; 1898-06, Michael Donnelly (resigned to become member of circuit court of the district); 1906, J. S. Ogin (served eight months to fill vacancy); 1906-20, John P. Bailey.

#### CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES.

The circuit courts were created in 1884 and Putnam county was placed in the third judicial district, comprising sixteen counties. In 1884, the following judges were elected: Thomas Bier, of Crawford county, for term of

two years; John J. Moore, of Putnam, for term of four years; Henry W. Seney, of Hardin county, for term of six years; 1892, James H. Day, of Mercer county, elected for six years; 1894, James L. Price, of Allen county, elected for six years; 1896, Caleb B. Morris, of Marion county, elected for six years; 1896, John C. Royer, of Fulton county, appointed to fill vacancy of Seney; 1904, Silas E. Hurin, of Hancock county, elected for six years; 1906-15, Michael Donnelly, of Henry county; 1908-20, Walter H. Kinder, of Hancock county; 1910-16, Phil M. Crow, of Hardin county; 1915, T. T. Ansberry, appointed to succeed Donnelly. In 1913 the circuit court became the appellate court.

ATTORNEYS OF PUTNAM COUNTY IN 1915.

Ottawa—D. M. Bailey, E. R. Eastman, Leroy Eastman, George Fritz, C. W. Fawcett, Benjamin Griffiths, W. H. Handy, J. P. Leasure, J. J. Moore, J. S. Ogan, D. N. Powell, H. M. Summers, J. W. Smith, J. H. Straman, Albert Straman, Benjamin Unverferth, A. V. Watts and Edward Weiser.

Leipsic—A. A. Slaybaugh and W. S. Stevenson.

Columbus Grove—Harry Core and C. C. Rimer.

Continental—J. C. Madden, Charles Varner and E. L. Hartman.

Kalida—Charles Veach.



## CHAPTER XIV.

### PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

The public schools of Putnam county have gone through a marked change from the beginning to the present time. The first definite organization which the schools had was "two mile districts." The townships were surveyed and laid out in two-mile-square districts. These districts were self-governing, independent bodies. The citizens of these districts met at the school house and elected the school board, which consisted of three directors. The directors made their own tax levy, employed their own teachers and were the head of the school systems in the several districts. The directors made their report to the county auditor and were responsible to him alone. They were their own treasurer and dispensed the school funds themselves.

The next change came a short time later. The citizens still elected their three directors as before, but one of these directors was chosen as the president of the two-mile-square district, while the other two were merely sub-directors. The former became a member of the township board of education, which elected the teachers and made the tax levy. The duty invested in the sub-directors was merely to suggest and recommend teachers and other matters, but having no immediate voice in the business; but the township board was the official school body and transacted all of the important business. They made their report to the county auditor as before.

The next change came in 1900, when the township board was elected at large by the voters, regardless of districts, and this board consisted of only five members. This board was the official organ of the school system of the county, electing the teachers, levying the taxes and buying fuel, etc. There was still one sub-director. He was elected by the local people from each district and could recommend and make suggestions, and also had the care of the building.

Under the old law for twenty years back, township supervision was optional. In this system the township board hired their supervisor, but this was entirely optional. Riley township was the only one in the county having township supervision. Another plan was where a union of townships could be effected if desired. An example of this system in the county was the

union of Liberty and Van Buren townships. The optional supervision law ran up to the present code, when supervision was made mandatory.

The next change came in 1913, which dispensed with the sub-director, taking the school government more and more out of the hands of the people. The effort all through this change of system has been to make the county the strong unit, the desire being to make the county count for more than the township. The powers which were formerly delegated to the township are now delegated to the county. This strong basic influence, by way of explanation, came from the systems in vogue in Virginia and were copied by the law-makers of Ohio from that state.

This latter change, which went into effect May 22, 1913, provides that the county board of education, which is the chief body, must be elected by the presidents of the existing school boards of the township. In case there are special districts in a township, the presidents of these several school boards meet and decide who shall cast the vote for the township in the county board election. Each township is entitled to only one vote. The county board of education is made up of five members.

The first meeting, which was a special session as provided by this law, was held on the third Saturday of July, 1913. The regular meetings are to be held the third Saturday in March, at which meeting the regular business is disposed of. Other regular meetings are to be held every two months, although a special meeting can be called between regular meetings.

The members of the county board of education are elected regularly for a term of five years, one retiring each year and a new member is elected. These members must be from different districts. At the first election, which was held on June 2, 1914, the following were elected to serve on the board of education for Putnam county. In order that the rotating system, whereby one new member was elected each year, could be brought into effect, at the first election the members were elected for a term of from one to five years as follows: B. H. Herringhaus, one year term, district No. 12; Harry Reese, two year term, district No. 6; Dr. C. F. Douglas, three year term, district No. 8; Frank Giesken, four year term, district No. 3; W. P. Frantz, five year term, district No. 1.

This board met in regular session on June 13, 1914, at which time George J. Keinath was elected as the first county superintendent, for a term of two years. The duties of the superintendent, besides the regular oversight of the schools, are to act as secretary of the county board of education and also act as executive officer of the board, with the privilege of discussion and

making suggestions, but not the power of voting. The superintendent is elected for a term of from one to three years, as the board decides.

The county board of education divides the county into supervision districts. Each district contains one or more villages or rural districts and no district shall have more than sixty teachers or less than twenty. If there are three or more boards in a district, the presidents of the boards elect the district superintendent. If only two boards in a district, they all have a vote.

The county board of education met on August 4, 1914, and divided Putnam county into twelve supervision districts. Following is a table showing the supervision districts, name of the district superintendent, number of teachers in each supervision district and number of teachers in each local district:

District, name of superintendent; local districts and number of teachers in each, and total number of teachers in each supervision district follow:

No. 1—Northeast supervision district, W. W. Dibble, superintendent. Liberty township, 9 teachers; Van Buren township, 7; Blanchard township, 12; Gilboa village, 2; Belmore village, 4; total, 34.

No. 2—Northwest supervision district, J. E. Hathorn, superintendent. Palmer township, 8 teachers; Monroe township, 7; Perry township, 8; Miller City village, 3; Hartsburg Special, 2; Dupont village, 3; Cloverdale, village, 3; total, 34.

No. 3—Center supervision district, H. J. Benning, superintendent. Ottawa township, 5 teachers; Greensburg township, 7; Glandorf village, 6; Ottawa and Pleasant special, 1; Hoffman special, 1; "Plum Creek" Center, 1; B. Fortman special, 1; Theodore Fortman special, 1; Liberty special, 1; New England special, 1; total, 25.

No. 4—Southeast district, J. A. Smith, superintendent. Riley township, 18 teachers; Pleasant township, 9; total, 27.

No. 5—Southwest supervision district, F. J. Uhrich, superintendent. Monterey township, 2 teachers; Jackson township, 5; Ottoville village, 7; Monterey second special, 2; Jackson special, 1; total, 17.

No. 6—Sugar Creek district, Perry Ford, superintendent. Sugar Creek township, 13 teachers; total, 13.

No. 7—Jennings supervision district, Frank A. Derck, superintendent. Jennings township, 5 teachers; Ft. Jennings village, 3; Rushmore special, 2; total, 10.

No. 8—Kalida supervision district, H. M. Jay, superintendent. Kalida

village, 6 teachers; Jack Oak special, 1; Mud Ridge special, 1; Union township, 1; total, 9.

No. 9—Columbus Grove supervision district, W. E. Stevens, superintendent. Columbus Grove village, 13 teachers; total, 13.

No. 10—Continental, J. H. Young, superintendent. Continental village, 10 teachers; total, 10.

No. 11—Leipsic, A. C. Alleshouse, superintendent. Leipsic village, 11 teachers; total, 11.

No. 12—Ottawa, C. J. Holzhauer, superintendent. Ottawa village, 11 teachers; total, 11.

The law has been amended, which will make a change in these districts in the near future.

#### COLUMBUS GROVE SCHOOLS.

In 1842 two school districts were created in Pleasant township. The Westerley district, with small portions of other townships became special district No. 2. Rev. William McGookin was the first teacher. From time to time various sub-districts were formed from territory detached from this district, leaving what is now known as Columbus Grove special district. The first school house, a log structure, was located on the north side of High street, near the site of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad. The second, a frame building, was erected on the same location and when the railroad was built it was purchased by the company, moved to their station grounds and used for a depot. The third building, a two-story frame, erected near the present school grounds, is still standing, being used for a barn. The next school building was first erected as a six-room structure and later was enlarged to twelve rooms.

The present building was erected in the year 1909 and is considered as one of the best equipped for fire protection in the state. It has seventeen rooms, a library, teachers' rest room, and superintendent's office, making it most convenient and commodious for both teachers and pupils and, with the modern equipment, makes it one of the most up-to-date school buildings in the county.

The teachers following Reverend McGookin in the first building were, Joseph Lippincot, Dr. H. E. White, Elizabeth Stewart (Mrs. N. H. Bagley), Dr. J. A. Newell, John Cottner, David McCurdy, Phillip Anderson and J. B. Jones. Elizabeth Begg (Mrs. George Morris), J. B. Sprague and C. A. McDowell taught in the second building. J. W. Powell, David Wisterman,

James Anderson, Mary Begg (Mrs. F. M. Cheadle) and E. R. Hogle taught in the third building. J. H. Bowman and W. O. Brown taught in the third building, completing the list to 1875.

In 1875 the classes were graded and a course of study was adopted, the first class graduating in 1878. There have been over two hundred and fifty graduates from the high school, and there are fourteen in the present graduating class. At present there are three hundred and fifteen enrolled in the grades and one hundred and seven in the high school. Nine teachers are employed in the grades and four in the high school. Superintendent W. E. Stevens, who is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, has served the school since 1910 and has been employed for two years longer. The principal, F. W. Sexton, is a graduate of Wooster University.

Following are the superintendents since 1875: J. F. Jones, September, 1875-May, 1878; W. L. Brothers, September, 1878-May, 1879; E. T. Fairchild, September, 1879-May, 1883; F. C. Knoff, September, 1883-May, 1885; E. Ward, September, 1885-May, 1891; A. L. Belch, September, 1891-May, 1898; H. D. Grindle, September, 1898-May, 1904; W. E. Kershner, September, 1904-May, 1905; James T. Begg, September, 1905-May, 1910; W. E. Stevens, September, 1910, to the present.

#### VAUGHNSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL.

Thirty-five years ago there were nine school districts in Sugar Creek township, with three school directors to each district. This is the first history of the schools which can be gathered. This township supervision, which began in 1902, lasted thirteen years.

Vaughnsville became a first-grade high school in 1911. Although this was not the beginning of the school system there, as they had held school for several years in different buildings in the town, still they had no high school building and were not classed as first grade. The first high school was held in the township house in 1901.

The present beautiful and modern building was erected in 1908 and marked the real entry of Vaughnsville into the limelight as an educational center. The building was finished at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars, and the following school board deserves some praise for its success: J. M. Gardner, president; M. M. Auchmutey, clerk; I. N. Parker, C. R. Smith and Harry Reese, directors.

The following have served as superintendents: John Funk, E. W. Greene, Victor Perry and Perry Ford. Forty-five young men and women

have been sent out into the world with a finished high school education since it became a first-grade high school, four years ago. The present enrollment numbers sixty-eight. There are fifteen in the 1915 graduating class.

The present school board consists of the following: Harry Reese, president; O. T. McBride, J. I. Thomas, John Stevens and John Clevenger, directors. The district schools were consolidated this year. The high school students are brought to Vaughnsville and the grade pupils are sent to Rimer. This necessitated the erection of a new school building at Rimer, at a cost of fourteen thousand dollars. An addition is also being built to the Vaughnsville school building, at a cost of eleven thousand dollars, which doubles the capacity of the school.

#### CRAWFIS COLLEGE.

Through the will of John Crawfis, a wealthy and distinguished citizen of Blanchard township, the citizens of Putnam county were afforded a means of instituting a high school with the object of affording an avenue to a higher education by the way of our district schools. Mr. Crawfis died in the year 1880 and bequeathed to Blanchard township the splendid sum of twenty-five thousand dollars to be used in the erection of a college. This proved to be the greatest gift which the citizens of Putnam county could hope for, and was the real start of the splendid school systems in this county.

The work on this handsome structure was begun in the year 1888. The site was in the southeastern portion of section 20, Blanchard township, located on the Findlay, Fort Wayne & Western railroad. The building was a two-story brick structure, erected at a cost of eleven thousand dollars and christened Crawfis College in honor of the donor of this noble gift, who made its erection possible. The campus is planted in shade trees and presents a very pretty appearance. During the year following, 1889, two dormitories were built, at a cost of two thousand and eighty-seven dollars, making one of the most complete public schools in the state and furnishing accommodations for higher education to the students of this community.

The building committee was composed of A. C. Hall, N. Conine and B. O. Robinson. The architect, E. Zoll, of Findlay, drew up the plans for the building, and A. Faeth, of Delphos, Ohio, had the contract. Prof. I. L. Harmon served as the first superintendent, from 1888 to 1891; Prof. Job Hill, from 1891-92; Prof. J. T. Fairchild, Prof. L. S. Lafferty, from 1892-94; Prof. B. J. Beach, from 1894-97; Prof. W. S. Wallen; Prof. John



CRAWFIS COLLEGE.





Wallen; Prof. John Hathorn, and Prof. W. W. Dibble, who is still head of the school.

The following teachers have assisted: George W. Risser, O. C. Wright, commercial department; Florence B. McClure, language; Mrs. O. C. Wright, elocution, with Charles Harbaugh, assistant; B. F. Finkle, mathematics; Mary Banfield, shorthand and typewriting; J. Krider, penmanship; Charlotte Rice, common branches; A. V. Mueller, German; C. C. Miller, assistant in the normal institute; Etta Compton, pianist; Blanche Adams, O. V. Todd and Emma Everett, assistants in the common branches; L. D. Hook, penmanship; G. R. Miller and J. C. Light, common branches; Bessie Ashbaugh, elocution; Flora McCray, pianist; Professor Wisley, telegraphy; N. O. Harmon, violin; Mrs. Lafferty, Katherine Oren, Captolia Oren, Ida Barto, Phoebe Oren, common branches, and Mr. Black, penmanship.

The school has had a flourishing career under the able management of the above superintendents and competent assistants. The school was changed to a first-grade high school on December 8, 1908, and at present is under district supervision. W. W. Dibble, the present superintendent, deserves much of the praise for the excellent status of the school and the achievements which have been the reward of his efforts.

The girls' dormitory was destroyed by fire, but was soon replaced by a new one, which is very commodious and modern.

The school is on a firm basis, with well-equipped laboratories, a splendid library, including encyclopedias, dictionaries and many works of standard authors. The present corps of teachers are George R. Miller, principal; Janet Rower, teacher of languages; T. I. Curtis, teacher of science. The enrollment at present embraces thirty-two pupils. This year's graduating class included four members.

#### LEIPSIK HIGH SCHOOL.

The Leipsic public school was organized in 1867, with Dr. J. C. McClung as principal, and had an enrollment of thirty-four pupils. In 1878 a commodious school building was erected, which accommodated the children of this village.

In 1880 it had reached the grade entitling it to a position of a high school. The growth of the school was so rapid, along with the increase in the population of the town, and reached such proportions that the building was inadequate to accommodate all of the students. The former structure was enlarged with an addition, and this furnished ample room for the mem-

bers of the school until the present structure was built, in 1908, at a cost of thirty-seven thousand dollars. This school building is modern and up-to-date in every respect, and, in addition to class rooms, superintendent's office, library, etc., it has an auditorium with a seating capacity of six hundred and twenty, large stage, and a very great asset, not only for the school to be proud of, but also the townspeople.

In 1883 the high school, under Supt. A. B. Spach, sent forth its first graduate, William H. Burkholder. Up to the present time two hundred and thirty-four have received certificates of graduation, and the present class numbers twenty-seven. The steady increase in the number of graduates is in marked contrast to the growth of the school. In the thirty-two years of its existence it has grown from a third-grade to a first-grade high school, from a few students to an enrollment of approximately four hundred at present. A chemistry course was added in 1914; also a phonograph has been installed for marching music. The school is active in athletics, and especially active along lines of literary societies. The Emersonian and Websterian societies are rival organizations and each year hold a contest in reading, debating and oratory, for a silver cup.

There are four teachers in the high school and eight in the grades. Following is a list of the superintendents since 1883: A. B. Spach, 1883-86; I. L. Harmon, 1886-89; L. S. Lafferty, 1889-91; C. M. Lewis, 1891-97; C. J. Luxmore, 1897-98; W. S. Sackett, 1898-1908; H. A. Lind, 1908-13; A. C. Alleshouse, 1913 to the present. Mr. Alleshouse has been re-employed for two years longer. He has Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio. The principal, P. J. Foltz, is a graduate of Defiance College.

#### PANDORA HIGH SCHOOL.

The beginning of the school system in Riley township dates back to 1836-37, when the first school building in the township was erected on the old Grismore farm. Mr. Wilson bears the distinction of being the first teacher to lead the young pupils in the paths of knowledge. The next school was located on the old Light farm, in the western part of the township, but the teachers of this school can not be ascertained.

The early history of the schools of this township cannot be carried out in full, but the present status and rank of the Pandora high school far offsets this discrepancy. The early growth of the schools was rather slow, but this was to spring forth in ample time and strengthen the school sys-

tems of the present time. Pandora high school has the distinction of being the only township high school in Ohio which is on the accredited list of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The honor of producing the first rural high school in this state to be so highly ranked belongs to Supt. J. A. Smith, of Pandora.

The first high school building was erected in 1895, at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars. This was a very modern structure at that time and served the students of this section for fifteen years, but, owing to the increased size of the enrollment, it was not deemed commodious enough to accommodate the increase in the school.

The present beautiful edifice was erected in 1910, at a cost of twenty-five thousand dollars. This building is complete in every detail and affords an excellent avenue for education to the students of this locality. Superintendent Smith has not been satisfied to rest on the laurels which this building has made possible, but has been active in installing new and modern devices of learning from time to time. It has every teaching device known to the profession, from the Babcock milk tester and metronome to compound microscopes and stereopticon, high school and alumni record systems, teacher-parent report-card system, and, in 1915, manual training and domestic science were added to the curriculum of the school. On the social side, it has the Adelpian, Browning, Philomathean and Schiller literary societies, the John Alden Agricultural Society for the boys, and the Priscilla Domestic Arts Society for the girls. It has a representative in the Northwestern oratorical contest, is a member of the Northwestern Athletic Association, and exhibited at both the Putnam county and Ohio state fairs.

The first graduate from the Pandora high school was Mary Davy, in 1898. Since that time it has graduated more than two hundred and seventy-five, and the present graduating class includes thirty-six members. The corps of teachers in the grades at present numbers thirteen, with an enrollment of four hundred pupils. There are seven teachers in the high school, with an attendance of one hundred and twenty-five.

Prof. J. A. Smith, as was previously mentioned, is the present superintendent, with J. R. Schutz as the principal of the high school. Both of these men have had extensive training and many years of successful experience to qualify them for this high position. At present Superintendent Smith is one of the instructors of the Wooster University Summer School, teaching agriculture. With such men at the helm, it is certain that the schools will continue to make advances in the lines of education.

The superintendents who have served this school from 1895 to the

present time are: W. S. Sackett, 1895-98; P. D. Amstutz, 1898-1907; C. D. Steiner, 1907-10; J. A. Smith, 1910 to the present time.

#### OTTAWA HIGH SCHOOL.

The history of the schools and school system of Ottawa dates back to about 1834. The schools passed through the usual vicissitudes which mark the beginning of all early institutions of learning, having for several years only one school. About the year 1862 two teachers were employed, as the enrollment had become too large for one to manage. In 1868 the West Union school building was erected at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars and this marked the real beginning of the advanced education in this village. Part of the credit for the organization and firm basis upon which it was established is due Prof. A. M. Brown. Prof. J. Lee Gamble succeeded Professor Brown as superintendent and served in that capacity for one year. In the fall of 1871 S. F. DeFord was employed as superintendent and four teachers were employed. The course of study was revised and enlarged. The following subjects were added to the curriculum: Chemistry, trigonometry, surveying, geology, zoology, mental philosophy and logic. The first graduating class consisted of six members and was graduated in 1873. There was a graduating class each succeeding year except 1875 and 1877. S. F. DeFord served as superintendent from 1871 to 1886.

In 1878 the school board appointed Hon. C. J. Swan and Dr. C. E. Tupper to assist the superintendent in revising the course of study. The report of the committee was unanimously adopted and consisted of the following requirements: A grade of eighty per cent must be made in every branch. The full English branches must be completed; Latin was made elective and, in addition, honors were conferred. The first honors were given for the highest average per cent upon the branches studied and consisted of the valedictory address. The second consisted of the salutatory address. Following are the years and students upon whom the honors were conferred from 1873 to 1891, no honors being given after the latter date: 1873—Julia Allen, first; Ralph Pugh, second. 1874—Gertie A. Paul, first; Mary E. Holtz, second. 1876—Laura E. Holtz, first; C. J. Tupper, second. 1878—Nellia F. Tupper, first; Nettie Monroe, second. 1879—Delia Shoup, first; W. W. Sutton, second. 1880—Frank Light, first; Jennie Pugh, second. 1881—F. Bruce McGreevy, first; Cal. P. Godfrey, second. 1882—Lettie Tupper, first; Maurice Goetschius, second. 1883—Julia Knowles, first; Charles Schierloh, second. 1884—Leroy A. Ellis, first; Anna Hayes, second.





KALIDA HIGH SCHOOL.



ABRAM BAUGHMAN, PIONEER AT LEIPSIC



LEIPSIC PUBLIC SCHOOL.





1885—Winnie Light, first; Mary Beckman, second. 1886—W. E. Clipping. 1887—Florence McClure, first; Mary Carr, second. 1888—Bertha Kraus, first; Charlotte Rice, second. 1889—Olive Nicewarner, first; Will A. Kelly, second. 1890—Grace Ward, first; Howard B. Row, second. 1891—Guy P. Long, first; John H. Lemkuhle, second.

Prof. S. F. DeFord was instrumental in the collection of different material and equipment for the use of the school. He collected, classified and labeled over one thousand five hundred mineral specimens, thus making an invaluable aid to the study of mineralogy, and likewise geology. He also, by the direction of the school board, purchased about one thousand dollars worth of philosophical, physiological, chemical, mathematical and geographical apparatus and charts, thus equipping the school thoroughly for all the ordinary demands of experiment and demonstration.

The magnificent East school building, which serves as the high school at the present time, was erected at a cost of thirty-five thousand dollars and at the time of its completion was one of the best structures for its size in the state. It was a marked example of the deep and abiding interest which the people of this village have in the cause of education. During the winter of 1894-95 Albert M. Austin, the high school teacher, inaugurated and put into active practical operation a gymnasium, using the entire fourth story of the new building for that purpose. Since that time Ottawa high school athletes have ranked among the best of the state and the athletic teams have always been ranked with the best in this part of the state.

Superintendents who have served since 1886 are: C. C. Miller, to 1890; J. M. Hall, 1890-91; D. W. Taussig, 1891-93; George E. Nelson, 1893-95. J. H. Secrest, J. W. Smith, G. J. Keinath, and C. F. Holzhauer, the present superintendent, who has had charge of the schools for three years. Professor Holzhauer is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, class of 1907, and under his able leadership the advancement of the school has been even more marked than in the past. Professor Holzhauer is assisted by G. D. Swartzel, who is a graduate of Otterbein University.

The schools at present have an able corps of eleven teachers, with an enrollment of three hundred and thirty pupils. The graduating class numbered fifteen.

#### OTTAWA HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI.

The first class graduated from the Ottawa high school in 1873, and since that time there have been graduates every year except two, 1875 and 1877. The complete list of graduates from 1873 to 1915 is as follows:

1873—Jennie (Long) Brotherton, Emma (McBride) Mann, Zoe (Godfrey) Ogle, Ella Swayze, Mattie (Slauson) Tupper, Ella (Brown) Hoover, Julia (Allen) Brownfield, Ralph Pugh.

1874—Etta Knowles, Gertrude (Paul) Paul, Mary (Rollins) Kinder, Mary (Holtz) Cox.

1876—Laura (Holtz) Clark-Day, Charles G. Tupper.

1878—Celia McBride, Clara (McBride) Light, Nettie (Monroe) Weaver, Charles L. H. Long, Alice (Knowles) Wyatt, Helen (Tupper) Kinder.

1879—Tupper Nicewander, Nevada (Shaffer) Gill, Nettie Williams, Delia (Shoup) Tupper, Frances (Gallup) Row, Lizzie (McGreevy) Rampe, W. W. Sutton.

1880—Frank Light, W. A. Kober, May Conrady, Lillian (Gallup) Haskell, Ella Clohosey, Jean (Pugh) Vale.

1881—C. P. Godfrey, Mattie (Taylor) Greer, T. L'H. Long, Dora (Ewing) Swift, Bruce McGreevy.

1882—C. O. Beardsley, M. P. Goetschius, Mary (Tupper) Scriver.

1883—Charles Schierloh, Julia Knowles, Sarah Knowles.

1884—Anna (Hayes) Flemming, Jean (Gallup) Day, Etta (Millman) Bierry, Emma (Kelly) Godfrey, Leroy A. Ellis, Ed. McCoy, Clark H. Rice.

1885—B. F. Deniston, W. S. Zeller, Frank Ewing, Ed. Beardsley, Mary (Beckman) Klotz, Winnie Light, Agnes (Long) Creveling, Lizzie Frey, Laura (Brooks) Hoskinson, Lizzie (DeFord) Haag-Stevens.

1886—Mary F. Stout, Carrie (Light) Ackerman, Emma (Rowe) Pope, Lizzie (Birkmeier) Beardsley, Luella Allen, Ida (Goetschius) Rice, Dora (Flint) Agner, C. B. Ward, W. E. Clippenger, E. C. Tupper.

1887—Mott Ewing, Joel Spiker, C. G. Olney, Chester Galbreath, Lizzie (Brockman) Ingleright, May (Carr) Hahn, Florence McClure.

1888—Zella D. (Kinder) Spencer, Bertha K. Krauss, Cora (Bennett) Bogart-Drown, Mazie (Hauck) Frey, Ella (Hauck) Swink, Charlotte Rice, W. W. Ward, Guy Godfrey.

1889—William A. Kelly, C. E. Place, C. D. Beardsley, Myrtle (Light) Huddle, Iva (Hamden) Cummer, Cora Barr, Mary (Galbreath) Hathaway, Mable (Wert) Hibbitts, Maude Merkley, Alice Nicewarner, Lida (Powell) Hartshorn, Josephine (Allen) Birkmeier.

1890—Laura Craig, Nannie (Ludwig) Ewing, Grace Ward, Junie Wright, Kathryn Rice, Essie Hathaway, Benjamin Unverferth, Howard Row, Leroy Day.

1891—Lillian (Eastman) Wolf, Bertha Loy, John Lehmkuhle, Guy P. Long, Charles G. Clippenger.

1892—John Gosling, John T. DeFord, Marguerite Ford, Mary Shondel, Nora (Light) Talbot, Harriet Gallup, Carrie (Brown) Altenburg, Marie Zeller, Carrie (Loy) Tupper.

1893—Lucy Bennett, Emma Knupp, Theodore Ludwig, Helen Sherrick, Francis Shaw, Edna Hathaway, Herman Schmitschulte.

1894—Blanche Knupp, Anna Straman, Della Wightman.

1895—Amy (Light) Van Cleve, Zoe (Kelly) Frederick, Lenore (Rice) Smith, Zoe (Brown) Coffman, Ora (Eastman) Turner, Emma (Brown) Allen, Esther (Hornaday) Davis, Alice (Hoskinson) Ward.

1896—Clara Meyer, Effa (Barr) Klay, Gertrude (Paul) Wilson, Violet Sackett, Anna Wellens, Emma (Fipp) Preisendorfer.

1897—Zoe Hoskinson, Meda (Williams) Haskell, Abbie (Sackett) Smith, Grace Pope.

1898—Mary (Reed) Ramey, Mary Gerdeman, Zoe Light, Erma (Leader) Emminegger, Bess Wilson, Clara (Unkenholtz) Buckwalder, Maude (Eastman) Murbach, Ada (Ernest) Butler, Velma (Fifer) Goodlove, Nelle (Overbeck) Secrest, Frona Brinkman, Ethel (McAdow) Holding, Susan (DeFord) Hunter, Iscah Hamden, Charles Justice, Merl Frick, Charles Krieger, Louis Leopold, Russel Howard, Charles Barr.

1899—Florence Graham, C. Guido Spencer, Edward Krauss, Norman Haskell, Nelle Cartwright, Laura Lehmkuhle, Emma Brinkman, Mary (McClure) Keinath, Laura (Kraft) Ferrall, William Ferrall, Effie Arnold, Harry Greer, Grace (Cover) Spencer, Mary Fipp, Kate (Matthews) Sherwood, Leslie (Ogle) Alt, Nora Rampe, Johanna Ruple, Nelle Sheets, Clyde Tupper.

1900—Jane (Rothman) Foote, Clara (Risser) Harman, Ida Miller, Laura (Kracht) Preisendorfer, Lulu Fifer, Lucy Brinkman, Leo Harman, Jackson Ogle, Ray Howard, Murray Haskell.

1901—Ethal (Ackerman) Crawfis, Besse (Bailey) Sherman, Mary Brinkel, Zoe (Burgess) Cline, Della Carr, Edith Cover, Besse (Graham) Justice, Pearl Hansel, Kathryn (Kraft) Miller, Helen McAdow, Zoe Matthews, Lillian Rampe, Nellie Reed, Katherine Straman, Etha Sutton, Altha Thrapp, Lena Wilson, Rudolph Alt, Clarence Bailey, Guy Cartwright, Ivan Eastman, Earl Holding, Ernest Leader.

1902—Kate (Frey) Altschul, Eva (Hipkins) Schaefer, Mary Tupper, Zoe Snider, Ethel (Eastman) Hixon, Homer Garwood.

1903—Owen Agner, Halcie Bailey, Helen (Brown) Sell, Earl Crawfis,

Lizzie Deck, George Frick, Lena Harmon, Lucy Haskell, Ruth Kemmer, Blanche (Laibe) Ellis, Rhea McGreevy, Myrtle (Ogan) Shaw, Coletta Rothman, Reid Jenkins.

1904—Frank Agner, Leon (Carr) Kerr, Alex Frey, Marguerite Hipkins, Florence Mallahan, Lucy (Poast) Agner, Emma Rower, Bessie Seitz, Nellie Stoffer, Sylvan Swink.

1905—Roy Eastman, George Bailey, Allan Harrison Graham, Hazel Pierman, Ede Brinkel, Mary Schmitschulte, Sadie Wilkins, Alice Todd, Della Carr, Ruth McAdow.

1906—Earl Combs, Harry I. Kahle, J. E. Harrington, Frances Kersting, Ola Harris, Pauline Annesser, Margaret Kerner, Florence Lehmkuhle, Lucy Beutler.

1907—Thayer Bailey, Trena Cowan, Marie (Conine) Agner, Arey Claypool, Mark Doepker, Alfred Ducey, Anna Jenkins, Lawrence LaBadie, Bessie Leopold, Charles Mallahan, DeFord Meffley, Ralph Maidlow, Mildred (Ogan) Donart, Neil Ruch, Sadie Reed, Glen Salsbury.

1908—Wava (Ewing) Crawfis, Millie Winkleman, Grace Heidlebaugh, W. R. Stuber, Zelma McDowell, Genevieve Ackerman, Ruth C. Frey, Leona Roof, Mary Wilkins, Dora Trame, Beatrice Hager.

1909—Alice Claypool, Leete Brown, Alice Deck, Iva Gillis, Charlotte Kolhoff, Chloe J. Cowan, Albert I. Kahle, Stewart Robenalt, Benjamin Rappaport, Bliss Radabaugh, A. V. Kersting, Mary L. Laibe, Mary E. Miller, Loretta Ducey, Gertrude Harrington.

1910—Marie Brown, Alphonse Kersting, Rowena Jones, Bessie Seibert, Margaret Light, Paul Maidlow, Gladys Meffley, Henry Leasure, Paul Yarnell, Zella Overbeck, Verner Summers, Charles E. Ruple, Julius Rothman, Blanche Radabaugh, Howard Baker, Herbert Eastman.

1911—Henry Rappaport, Todd Cartwright, Bertha McDowell, Mary Hermiller, Louise LaBadie, Gladys (Summers) Robenalt, Wayne R. Ruch, Julius Ogan, Mary Arnold.

1912—Mary L. Frey, Lena Shane, Eva J. McDowell, Ruth Cartwright, William Nemire, N. K. Godfrey, R. E. Bailey, Irene Ducey, Gust Winkleman, Catherine Dinan, Helen Agner, Mabel Graham.

1913—Karl Kersting, Loretta Welde, Lyle Cummer, Floyd Evans, Given H. Acker, Oscar W. Hermiller, Rudolph Beckman, Martha Huber, Angie LaBadie, John H. LaBadie, Frances McGreevy, Mary Schierloh, Lola McBride, Marie Williams, Helen Ruch, Rowena Agner, Hiram K. Ackerman, Guy Kersh, Gertie Nemire, Frances Beck.

1914—Hester Badman, Helen Kerr, Ethel Kitchen, Mary Jane Zeller,

William Summers, Burdelle Jane Culp, Mildred Cass, Lillian Doecker, Jane Beach, Charlotte Westrick, Mary Rappaport, Helen Fox, Darwin Powell, Zoe Page, Russell Roose, Grace Purnell.

1915—Viola Falke, George W. Meffley, Jr., Mildred Pierman, Florence Pence, Jessie Stover, Florence Schierloh, Rozella Westrick, Terese Winkelman, Cora Zink, Helen Van Cleve, Mary Louise Light, Walter Rauh, Florence Jones, Edna Wilkins.

#### COUNTY SPELLING CONTEST.

There has been a great revival of interest in spelling in the state of Ohio within the last few years and now there is a state-wide contest which is conducted every spring. Each county has an elimination contest and the best spellers from each county meet at Columbus to decide the finals. There are fifteen townships in Putnam county and each was allowed to enter twenty contestants. The other contestants were divided as follows: Each special school district entered two; each high school, six; each normal school, three; each parochial school, six; each village graded school, six. This made a total of nearly four hundred contestants for the final county contest, which was held in 1915 at the county seat on May 15. A list of over eleven hundred words was prepared in advance and all contestants had a chance to study them before the final. Judge John P. Bailey pronounced the words and after a contest, which showed that the boys and girls had prepared themselves for the ordeal, the winner was finally chosen. It proved to be Nellie Green, of Monroe township, who represented the county in the grand final contest at Columbus on June 4, 1915.

## CHAPTER XV.

### MILITARY RECORD OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

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#### CIVIL WAR.

The record of Putnam county in the Civil War is one which reflects credit on its patriotic citizens, and it is very lamentable that a great part of the official records pertaining to the county's part in the war have been lost or destroyed. Several years ago there was a fire under a stairway in the court house where many of the Civil-war records were kept, and as a result some were burned and others thrown out, only to be lost. Only a very few were rescued and preserved and it is from these that this chapter has been compiled. There was one paper, the *Kalida Venture*, published during the war, but, as far as is known, there are no copies of that period in existence. The few records, together with the reports of the county commissioners, furnish all of the available documentary material on which to base this chapter, and these two sources have been largely incorporated in the present discussion.

Just how many men enlisted from this county will probably never be known. While the most of the enlistments were made in companies recruited in the county, or in companies which were partially filled in the county, there were many who enlisted in other counties and credited to the county in which they enlisted. The records of the county commissioners show the number of persons receiving relief at the hands of the state or county, the maximum number in 1865 totaling nine hundred and ninety-seven. However, since there were many soldiers who had from one to half a dozen or more dependent upon them, is it not possible from this figure to estimate the number of enlistments. Unfortunately, nearly all of the records of enlistments which have been preserved give the volunteers up to and including only 1862. Undoubtedly, the greater number of enlistments occurred after this year. The official list of volunteers compiled by the state of Ohio does not give the county from which the men enlisted and this makes an otherwise

valuable report of no value in determining the number of volunteers from each county.

In returning the names of the volunteers from the various townships, those having charge of this duty neglected in most instances to give the regiment and company in which the volunteers enlisted. The names of enlistments from only twelve of the fifteen townships have been preserved and these are given below in the order in which they appear on the record. No records were found for Jackson, Union and Sugar Creek townships. The townships are arranged alphabetically.

#### BLANCHARD TOWNSHIP.

John Rotes, Cyrus Carter, William F. Wimer, Nehemiah Hoskinson, J. M. Stout, George Tooman, W. H. H. Myers, James Meals, Isaac Thrapp, Henry Harris, George Ashenfelter, Samuel Ladd, Albert Simpson, Gilbert Radabaugh, Eugene Carter, Levi Claybaugh, William Stateler, B. P. Conn, William Lindsey, Jasper Payne, George Payne, James Clark, Elliott Clark, Moses Woodruff, Louis Woodruff, Jacob Fry, William Patrick, George Franks, Lloyd Nicewarner, James Parker, Rudolph Writh, Daniel Grafton, F. M. Harrit, Edson Crawl, John Welch, David Siders, Abram Sites and Scott Strain. This list is signed by George Bacon, assessor, who says at the end of his report that he had missed Richard Henderson and John Crawfis. The list is headed as a "List of Volunteers since the 2nd of July, 1862," but there is nothing to indicate what period of time the enlistments covered. The only other official record of Blanchard township is the militia roster taken by the assessor in May, 1863, at which time there were two hundred and thirty-three men of militia age (between the ages of eighteen and forty-five) in the township. Evidently this was prepared in view of the draft which was then being contemplated. The names of all the men are given, but it is not stated how many of them had already enlisted, nor has any record been found which discloses how many finally enlisted from the township.

#### GREENSBURG TOWNSHIP.

The only record of Greensburg township shows that ten men enlisted between July 2, 1862, and August 22, 1862. This list is signed by F. H. Huster, the assessor of the township. The list follows: Stephen Grove, Elias Larabee, William R. Crow, Ephriam Crow, Seth Neill, Daniel Troyer, Elmer Hartshorn, Samuel Swezy, Stanley Brower and James Wisterman.

## JENNINGS TOWNSHIP.

Jennings township is credited with fourteen volunteers between July 2, 1862, and August 22, 1862, as follows: Isaac Riswer, Simon Allen, Joseph Stephan, Nathaniel Harris, Henry Roose, Hampton E. Wade, Henry Hershey, Asbury Riggle, Robert Good, Emanuel Clapper, Thomas Hunt, Henry Hunter, Presley Good and Henry R. Hagemann. This list is signed by Henry Raabe, the assessor of Jennings township.

## LIBERTY TOWNSHIP.

The assessor of Liberty township, James Wooddell, returned the names of thirty-six volunteers of his township who had enlisted between July 2, 1862, and August 22, 1862. Of this number twenty were in the Ninety-ninth Regiment, nine in the Eighty-third Regiment, one in the Twenty-first Regiment and six unassigned. All of these volunteers except the last six enlisted for three years. The record further gives the age and occupation of all the enlistments. All of them, with the exception of ten, were twenty-one or over and twenty-one of them were farmers. There were two school teachers, a carpenter, plasterer, cooper, tanner, millwright, teamster, engineer and one who was labeled "selling goods." The following twenty were members of the Ninety-ninth Regiment: Albion Clutter, William Henry Harrison, Jr., Henry Waltner, Jonas Baughman, Vincent B. Johnston, John Hickery, Melanchton Scott, Hamilton Miller, William T. Dickey, James A. Allen, Rollin Hofsteatter, David L. Strain, Livingston McKinzie, Thomas Crane, Everett Meachem, David Hofsteatter, Benjamin D. Hall, Abraham Knup, Ezra M. Warren and Isaac Douglas. The following nine members were members of the Eighty-third Regiment: William C. G. Krauss, Gustave A. Krauss, Edward M. Krauss, Charles W. Kratzer, Joel Swihart, Hammet Workman, Eli Swihart, George Swihart and William F. Polen. Marion Stockwell is credited to the Twenty-first Regiment. Samuel Leatherman, Samuel Foutz, Joseph Landis, Samuel Runyan, William Nicewarner and Philip Stambaugh were unassigned. Another record of Liberty township shows that five men enlisted between August 22, 1862, and September 16, 1862. Two of these, David Jack and John Stambaugh, enlisted for three years in the Forty-ninth Regiment; two others, Philip J. Zeigler and Samuel Foltz, enlisted for three years in the One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment; Calvin Allen enlisted for three months in the Eighty-seventh Regiment.



## MONROE TOWNSHIP.

There were eleven volunteers from Monroe township between July 2, and August 23, 1862, as returned by William R. Frantz, the assessor of the township. The list follows: Samuel G. Jones, John Connett, John Yarger, Jacob Yarger, Calvin Taylor, Joel Taylor, William Taylor, Jackson Hoggans, William J. Smith, David Cline and John Emmarling.

## MONTEREY TOWNSHIP.

Monterey township reported nineteen volunteers enlisting between July 2 and August 22, 1862, as shown by the official report of the assessor, Peter Wannemacher, as follows: Arent Huysman, Walter Huysman, Moses C. Cowen, Orlando F. Damon, Samuel McMillen, T. P. Payne, Ephraim Tillton, Oscar Curtis, George W. Roush, Nathaniel Harris, Israel Gaden, Silas M. Thatcher, John T. Thatcher, Daniel Sullivan, George Good, Jacob Elder, Hiram H. Elder, John W. Stoffer and Isaiah Allgyre.

## OTTAWA TOWNSHIP.

Ottawa township was the most populous township in the county during the war and furnished the most volunteers, although there is no way of determining the exact number. The only record preserved of Ottawa township gives the volunteers enlisting between July 2 and August 22, 1862. During this short period of fifty days fifty-six men enrolled in the township, as is shown by the report of the assessor, F. W. Deters. The list follows: John Shondel, C. W. Cannon, Daniel Wagner, Charles W. Creighton, John Ward, Cyrus Taylor, George Lutz, Jacob Crow, Abraham Kitchen, W. W. Kitchen, Harry Radabaugh, Worth Watts, John Smith, James McComb, John Fruchey, Henry Fruchey, Prescott Wright, Henry Crum, George Morhead, John Bolzer, John Hart, John Walker, James Sackett, G. S. Rollans (not accepted), Thomas Shyrer, A. A. Ebersole, Joshua T. Cox, George Riegel, W. H. Andrews, E. K. Allen, J. T. Lenzy, John Winkler, I. Willoughby, George Kurtz, Paul Silvers, David Amlir, Berel Andrews, Henry May, Jacob Dommino (not accepted), John Henry Vogt, Samuel Wallace, John Wallace, James McGerry, J. M. Hall, Cornelius McCullough, A. Fowler (not accepted), E. D. Harris, Jacob L'H. Long, Philip Nougale, Cyrus Taylor, John A. Lenhard, William Dickey, John M. Hawkey, Winfield S. Hipkins, Henry Meisner and John Murphy.

## PALMER TOWNSHIP.

Palmer township furnished eight volunteers between July 2 and August 22, 1862, as reported by the assessor, Samuel Watters. The list follows: Henry Sigafoose, Elias Sigafoose, William Truitt, Joel Osborn, Joseph Osborn, Joseph Aquila, Wayne Hazelton and George Earnest.

## PLEASANT TOWNSHIP.

The records of Pleasant township are the most complete of any township in the county. The first record in point of time gives the volunteers enlisting between July 2 and August 22, 1862, during which time forty-two men enlisted from the township, as follows: George Bunn, Samuel R. Detwiler, Andrew Miller, Titus Hotchkiss, William Starner, Proctor L. Mounts, John Ward, Peter Edmunds, William Parish, Jacob Sakemiller, Thomas J. Harbaugh, Francis W. Pence, John Bushong, Lafayette Fruchey, John W. Powell, Walter J. Blunden, Webster Frazee, William Lytle, Amos J. Nichol, James R. Smith, David W. Bogart, Andrew R. Sakemiller, William Thompson, George Arnold, David Salyard, Jacob Fuller, Harrison Turner, Adam Turner, Miles Barfield, James Critten, Josiah Krouse, Emmett Heckman, Joseph Tingle, Edward Flint, Alexander Burgess, Leonard S. Spach, John F. Bogart, Benjamin Nicewarner, William R. Smith, John Street and Caleb Sprague.

The only complete record of the soldiers in any township of Putnam county is found in the "Enumeration of all the Soldiers & Mariners, who are in the Service of the State or United States, being residents of Pleasant Township, Putnam Co., O., when entering said service." In May, 1863, the township trustees, John Norton and James Sims, made a complete return of all of the soldiers of Pleasant township and their record shows that the township at that time had one hundred and four volunteers in ten different regiments. This record furthermore gives the company, the sex and age of the families of the soldiers and indicates whether the families are in need of help. Forty-one of the soldiers had families and all but fourteen are listed as "necessitous." The following regiments had volunteers from Pleasant township: Third, Fourth, Fourteenth, Twenty-first, Twenty-seventh, Forty-ninth, Fifty-seventh, Eighty-first, Ninety-ninth and One Hundred and Eighteenth.

Third Regiment—Jacob E. Fuller, David Smith, John W. Wilson.

Fourth Regiment—T. L. Byers, Jarvis Postlewait, Robert Lease (discharged), Solomon Rush.

Fourteenth Regiment—Deliverance Parrish, John P. Crawford, John H. Barrett, Dudley Tracey, Stephen Klover, Perry Tate, Isaac C. Connett, Jessie Fruchey, John B. Featherengill, John Ditzler, Thompson Bogan, John Tate, David M. Glancy (deceased), William H. Glancy, William Belford, Oscar Smith, Byron Salmon, Jacob Carr, Sidney Sanders (discharged), Emerson Sampson, Elijah W. Greene (discharged), Orison Buck, Valentine Harbaugh, William Ward, George Ward, Israel W. Martin (discharged), George M. Camden (discharged), Daniel Hotchkiss (discharged), Abraham Bogart, Abraham Smith (discharged), Jacob Kohli, Samuel Sterlin, Oliver Oglevie, Louis Oglevie, Hamilton Killin, Abner Killin, Isaac Fruchey (discharged), Andrew J. Fruchey, Noah W. Ogan, Isaac Bogart, Martin Fuller, William Fuller, W. H. H. Bowers, S. S. Bowers, Restore Douglass and Gamaliel Morris. All of the members of the Fourteenth Regiment were in Company K.

Twenty-first Regiment—Thomas Bunn, William Bunn, John S. Hart, Joseph Bushong, James Wamsley, Lewis Price, Ozro D. Byers, William Payne. These eight men were members of Company D.

Twenty-seventh Regiment—Robert H. Turner, William C. Turner, Lucas McCombs (discharged), Joseph Edmonds. These volunteers were in Company I.

Forty-ninth Regiment—Simon P. Strow, John A. Lake, Silas A. Ketner, Uriah Johnson. These four men were in Company I.

Fifty-seventh Regiment—James Critten, John Fossett, John Hart, Decatur Tate. All of these men were in Company A with the exception of Hart, who was in Company E.

Eighty-first Regiment—William Parrish, David Salyards, William Thompson, John F. Bogart, George Baum, John Boston, George Arnold, Andrew Miller, Thomas Harbaugh, Francis W. Pence, Jacob Sakemiller, Andrew Sakemiller, Peter Edmonds, John Ward, Leonard Spach, William Starnier, John Streatt, Joseph F. Bushong, and Amos J. Nichols (discharged). All of these men were members of Company G.

Ninety-ninth Regiment—Joseph Tingle, B. J. Nicewarner, A. H. Flint. Tingle was a member of Company F and the other two volunteers were in Company I.

One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment—John H. Good, Harrison Turner, Adam Turner. Good was in Company E and the other two were in Company D.

## PUTNAM COUNTY, OHIO.

## PERRY TOWNSHIP.

Perry township furnished twenty-three volunteers between July 2 and August 22, 1862, according to the report of the assessor, N. Whitney. The list follows: Payton Cline, Elias W. Dimmock, Samuel P. Wollam, Thomas Wagoner, Dibbel Ridenour, John Wheeler, Isaac Wheeler, Leven Corkwell, Moses Dickey, Eli May, Samuel King, William Robart, John T. Guy, William Brown, Cyril B. Bacon, John E. Weiser, Jacob Spitnale, John Rariden, Abraham Myers, John Bell, John T. Thatcher. Morris Burnett and John Smith.

## RILEY TOWNSHIP.

The assessor of Riley township returned to the auditor the names of eight men who had volunteered from Riley township between July 2 and August 22, 1862. These eight men were as follows: Henry Harris, James Meals, Milton Thrap, Orville Thrap, Newton Wilson, Lewis Stakely, Philip Roulin and Elias Darling.

## VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP.

Solomon Leffler, the assessor of Van Buren township, returned the names of sixteen men who had volunteered from his township between July 2 and August 22, 1862. The list follows: John Carter, John Drushel, Henry Drushel, Noah Smith, Moses Stirman, Thomas Wilson, Lewis Crosser, Solomon W. Hicks, Jesse Kelly, Alanson Brown, John Reading, Robert Hull, Sylvester Cook, John Wilson, Abraham Newell and William Newell. Between August 22 and September 13, 1862, four more enlisted from Van Buren township: Daniel G. Leffler, Daniel Leffler, Martin Van Bowman and Seth Shoemaker.

## PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICERS IN THE CIVIL WAR.

The complete roster of Putnam county officers in the Civil War is not available, but the following list comprises the most prominent men of the county who attained official ranking: Americus V. Rice, brigadier-general, Fifty-seventh Regiment; Jacob L'H. Long, major, Eighty-seventh Regiment; Thomas Allen, captain; F. K. Allen, captain, Company C, Eighty-eighth Regiment; James C. Gribben, captain, Fifty-seventh Regiment; S. W. Drake, captain, Company I, One Hundred Ninety-seventh Regiment; Guy

Pomeroy, lieutenant, Company D, Twenty-first Regiment; A. D. McClure, lieutenant, Company C, Eighty-seventh Regiment; Thomas J. Harbaugh, lieutenant, Company F, Eighty-first Regiment; J. C. Silvers, lieutenant, Company C, Eighty-seventh Regiment; Joseph McCrate, lieutenant, Fifty-seventh Regiment; Charles Allen, lieutenant, Twenty-first Regiment; Charles E. Tupper, surgeon, Forty-first Regiment; Joseph Morris, assistant surgeon, One Hundred and Seventy-third Regiment; W. C. G. Krauss, hospital steward; Daniel M. Foltz, quartermaster, Forty-ninth Regiment; Aaron Overbeck, corporal, Company A, Fifty-seventh Regiment.

GEN. A. V. RICE, PUTNAM COUNTY'S GREATEST CIVIL-WAR SOLDIER.

Americus V. Rice, who came to Putnam county in 1847, has the honor of attaining a higher military rank in the Civil War than any other man from the county. He was born in Perrysville, Ohio, November 18, 1835, and came to Putnam county with his parents when he was twelve years of age. General Rice graduated from Union College, Schenectady, New York, in 1860, and at once returned to his home in Kalida to begin the study of law.

In the spring of 1861 he offered his services under the three-months call of President Lincoln and on April 29, 1861, was elected second lieutenant of Company E, Twenty-first Regiment of Ohio Infantry. On May 16, 1861, he was elected captain of the company and served with this rank in West Virginia under Gen. J. D. Cox until the company was mustered out in the following August. He at once returned to his home in Kalida and in the following month organized a company for the three-year service and was mustered in as captain of Company A, Fifty-seventh Regiment of Ohio Volunteer Infantry. On February 8, 1862, he was appointed lieutenant-colonel of his regiment upon the unanimous recommendation of all the officers of the regiment. His regiment was present at the battle of Shiloh and was in the thickest of that terrible fight. One-third of the regiment was missing, which goes to show the conspicuous part it played in the battle. During the engagement a shell burst above the head of Colonel Rice, knocking both him and his horse to the ground, but fortunately did not seriously injure either of them. It is not possible in this brief summary of his career to follow his military career in detail. Suffice it to say, that his conduct on all occasions was such as to commend him to those above him in authority. In March, 1863, he was placed in command of the First Brigade, First Division, Fifteenth Army Corps, and on April 16, of the same year,

was commissioned colonel of the Fifty-seventh Regiment. Fighting with his regiment in all of the skirmishes around Vicksburg, he won additional honor in the skillful manner in which he handled his regiment. In leading an assault on that stronghold he was struck in the leg by a minie ball and seriously injured and kept out of active service until January, 1864. In recognition of his gallant services around Vicksburg, General Grant recommended him for promotion to brigadier-general, and with this rank he served with Sherman in the Atlanta campaign. At Kenesaw Mountain he was so badly wounded in the leg that it had to be amputated above the knee. For his bravery at Resaca, May 14, 1864, he was again recommended by the general officers for promotion to the rank of brigadier-general, but the appointment was withheld until May, 1865.

On account of the loss of his leg, General Rice was unable to rejoin his command until April, 1865, when he took charge of his regiment at Newburn, North Carolina. He passed with his command in the Grand Review at Washington, D. C., on May 24, 1865, and in the following month took them to Louisville, Kentucky. There he was assigned to the command of the Third Brigade, Second Division, Fifteenth Army Corps, which he took to Little Rock, Arkansas, arriving there June 24, 1865. He remained there in command until his command was mustered out in August of the same year. General Rice was honorably discharged on January 15, 1866.

It is interesting to note that General Rice, after the close of the war, at once entered into peaceful pursuits with the same enthusiasm which characterized his career in the military life. He was a war Democrat and was always interested in political matters. He was a delegate to the Baltimore convention which nominated Horace Greeley. In 1874 he was elected to Congress and was re-elected in 1876. In 1894 he was appointed United States pension agent for Ohio and took possession of his office on May 1 of that year. He subsequently went to Washington and was connected with the pension department for a number of years. While in office, he died and was buried in the cemetery at Arlington.

#### THRIFTY SOLDIERS.

Many of the soldiers of Putnam county saved their money and sent it home from time to time. Among the few Civil War records found was a package of orders, thirty-three in number, which represented varying sums of money sent home by the soldiers of this county. In order that future generations may know who these thirty-three thrifty men were, their names

are here given, with the sums of money which they forwarded to their loved ones on January 15, 1864: Twenty-first Regiment, Thomas Anderson, \$700; J. N. Hickerson, \$40; Daniel Carr, \$50; Edson G. Crowl, \$50; Jackson Sylvis, \$30; C. F. Jones, \$50; J. Harris, \$50; Francis Lindsey, \$40; Joseph Bushong, \$100; James B. Trask, \$100; Daniel Fairchild, \$160; Aaron Rice, \$50; John Hart, \$50; Edward H. Clever, \$30; R. McBride, \$90; Celestin Chochard, \$100; Elam D. Fairchild, \$50; Jacob D. Vanscorder, \$45; Thirty-eighth Regiment, Nicholas Quick, \$30; Forty-ninth Regiment, Jacob N. Reed, \$30; John A. Leonard, \$25; Albert Harris, \$30; John M. Cartwright, \$40; Francis A. Kiene, \$40; Jacob Foltz, \$100; William H. Dean, \$25; John A. Lake, \$10; Sixty-fifth Regiment, William Harris, \$60; John Osborn, \$25; Jacob Lindsey, \$50; One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, J. Taylor, \$40; A. Kitchen, \$50; N. Clevenger, \$65.

#### SOLDIER RELIEF DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

During the progress of the Civil War the families of the soldiers were often reduced to poverty and the counties individually, as well as the state, came to their rescue. Thousands of dollars were expended for relief and before the war had progressed more than a year definite arrangements had been made to provide the necessities of life to every needy soldier's family. The following statistics have been taken from the commissioners' records and show that fifteen thousand nine hundred forty-nine dollars and ninety cents was paid out for relief from June, 1862, until March, 1866, when the last relief was paid. This money was proportioned to the townships according to their enlistments and was distributed by specially-appointed agents. The following table shows the amount of relief year by year: December, 1862, \$598.92, 919 receiving relief; June, 1864, \$2,415.00, 997 receiving relief; March, 1865, \$6,036.29, 997 receiving relief; September, 1865, \$3,758.69, 997 receiving relief; March, 1866, \$3,140.00, number receiving relief not given.

#### A CIVIL-WAR ELECTION.

It is not generally known that the soldiers in the field during the Civil War were allowed to vote and although those from Putnam county must have exercised their franchise, there is a record of only one man casting his vote in the field. Among the few Civil War records saved is a certificate of election showing that Walter Huysman, a resident of Monterey township, a member of the Second Regiment of Engineers, voted in Knox county,

Tennessee, on the second Tuesday of October, 1863. On a ticket twenty-eight inches long, the said Huysman voted for governor (John Brough), lieutenant-governor (Charles Anderson), auditor of state (James H. Godman), treasurer of state (G. Volney Dorsey), judge of the supreme court (Hocking H. Hunter), member of the board of public works (John M. Barriere), state representative (Cyrus Howard), judge of common pleas court (Joseph Plunket), probate judge (J. B. Jones), county clerk (Samuel D. Ayers), sheriff (Nathaniel H. Bagley), county commissioner (Elias W. Dimmock), surveyor (Seneca J. Powell). This ticket was headed "Ohio Union Ticket" and was, of course, the regular Republican ticket.

#### VOTERS OF 1847.

Among the Civil War records were found the returns of the assessors of Ottawa, Jackson and Richland townships, giving the names of all the white male inhabitants above the age of twenty-one years in 1847. Ottawa township was credited with two hundred and fourteen voters, Jackson with forty-one and Richland with one hundred and thirty-five.

#### MILITIA DAYS IN PUTNAM COUNTY.

Up to the opening of the Mexican War in 1846 there were local militia companies in every county in Ohio and as soon as Putnam county was organized in 1834 steps were taken to organize the citizens of the county into companies. The first company in Ottawa township had on its roll practically every citizen; in fact, the law provided that all able-bodied citizens, between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, should attend muster day at least twice a year. Capt. F. S. Godfrey was the head of the company in Ottawa township, which bore the bellicose title of "Black Hawk Riflemen." This name was doubtless the result of the Black Hawk War which had just closed a year or so before Putnam county was organized. The uniform of these warriors consisted of a black hunting shirt, jeans trousers and a felt hat decorated with a long black feather. On muster days the whole county turned out to watch the maneuver and these were the biggest days of the year. More whiskey was drunk, more fights staged, more corn bread eaten and more blood spilled on this day than any other in the year. Interest in local militia companies gradually died out before the opening of the Mexican War and when preparations were made to furnish troops for that struggle, the militia laws were revised and the "corn-stalk militia" became a thing of



the past. It was not until the beginning of the twentieth century that Putnam county had another local militia company and the county seat now boasts of one of the finest armory buildings in the state of Ohio.

#### COMPANY M, OHIO NATIONAL GUARD.

On June 20, 1901, Colonel Adams, of Columbus, mustered in Company M of the Ohio national guard at Ottawa. Colonel Adams was assisted in this work by Colonel Ream and Major Vail, of Lima. Prof. J. W. Smith, of the Ottawa public schools, was first appointed to fill the office of captain. The following is a complete list of the men mustered in: Clive Agner, Vinza Agner, Rudolph Alt, Fred Arnold, Benjamin Griffith, Leo Harmon, LeRoy Haskell, Frank Hensel, Carl Husted, David Jenkins, George Jenkins, Carl Knettle, Paul Knettle, Harmon Bassett, Frank Fisher, Ed Ford, Charles Fowler, Ed Frey, Theodore Fuerst, Frank Fulton, Leonard Gerdeman, Jackson Ogle, Clarence Bailey, Dalby Crawfis, Earl Crawfis, Frank Cummer, Geary Day, Ed Farthing, Will Farrell, J. W. Row, Leslie Sawtelle, William Vail, Wilson Palmer, Nelson McDowell, Charles Reed, Herman Reed, Clyde Ridge, Calvin Wagner, Byron Pope, Walter Risser, Allen Robenalt, William Robenalt, Ed Shondel, Joe Shondel, J. W. Smith, William Smith, Benjamin Thompson, and Clyde Tupper. All of these members were residents of Ottawa. The following were residents of Leipsic: William Baughman, William Eastman, Joseph Justice, Ed Kuntz, Chester Lowry, Dyke Nutter and Forest Nutter.

The first officers were J. W. Row, first lieutenant; H. M. Reed, second lieutenant; J. D. Crawfis, first sergeant; F. E. Cummer, second sergeant; L. Haskell, third sergeant; C. A. Frey, fourth sergeant; H. L. Robenalt, fifth sergeant; H. T. Bassett, commissary; F. O. Arnold, L. C. Gerdeman, J. M. Justice, M. G. Haskell, W. E. Laibe, A. J. Ogle, and D. R. Jenkins, corporals.

Company M was first quartered in the building across from the DuMont hotel. Later the opera house served as temporary quarters until it soon moved to the old armory on Second street. This armory was owned by private individuals and rented to Company M.

A movement was set on foot in 1913 for a new armory. The citizens of Ottawa were behind this movement and appropriated five thousand dollars to buy a site for the new structure. The state then made an appropriation of twenty thousand dollars and the efforts of the citizens who had worked for this building were soon to be rewarded. A lot was purchased on Main

street and work on the new armory was soon begun. The building was completed in September, 1914, and the company moved into their new quarters in October of the same year.

At present there are fifty-three members, counting officers, with strong indications of an increase in enrollment. The present officers are G. M. Cartwright, captain; James O. Post, first lieutenant; Fred L. Roose, second lieutenant.

#### GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

Thomas Allen Post No. 578, Grand Army of the Republic, was organized at Ottawa on March 3, 1886, with twenty-six members, as follows: J. C. Light, D. R. Jenkins, Joseph Allen, J. M. Hawley, J. L'H. Long, A. V. Rice, David Donley, Philip Schweichert, J. R. Smith, B. B. Dennis, Prescott P. Wright, John J. Frey, John Shondel, A. G. Bogardus, T. B. Conn, L. L. Parker, John Ward, P. B. Radabaugh, J. C. McAdow, D. S. Blakeman, Aaron Overbeck, C. P. Bennett, H. C. Carr, C. A. Layton, F. M. Blakeman and Bernard Kreger. At the time of the application for a charter the petitioners asked that the new post be named Thomas Allen Post, in honor of a lieutenant by that name, a resident of the county, who was killed in Virginia during the progress of the war.

The local post is not as strong as it has been in the past and each succeeding Memorial day sees fewer of the old veterans in line. It cannot be but a few years until the last will have answered the final roll call, but this one day will always be kept in grateful remembrance of those who fought and bled that this country might remain a united nation. The complete list of all members of Thomas Allen Post, together with their companies and regiments, is as follows:

Louis L. Parker, Company A, Fifty-seventh Regiment.

Jacob L'H. Long, Eighty-seventh Regiment.

David Blakeman, Company D, Ninety-ninth Regiment.

Aaron Overbeck, Company A, Fifty-seventh Regiment.

A. V. Rice, Company A, Fifty-seventh Regiment.

H. H. Pope.

Herman Albright, Company I.

John Ward, Twenty-first Regiment.

Barney Gerding, Company I, Thirty-seventh Regiment.

Bernard Krueger, Company I, Thirty-seventh Regiment.

Andrew Erhart, Company I, Thirty-seventh Regiment.

John J. Frey, Company I, Thirty-seventh Regiment.

Joshua C. Light, Company A, Sixty-sixth Regiment.

John J. Zeller, Company C, Eighty-seventh Regiment.

David R. Jenkins, Company B, Ninety-ninth Regiment.

C. P. Bennett.

J. C. Barr, Fifty-fourth Regiment.

David Bridenbaugh, Company K, Eighth Regiment.

David Donley, Company D, Thirty-fourth Regiment.

J. M. Hawkey, Company I, Ninety-ninth Regiment.

Thomas Mellman.

J. C. McAdow, Fifteenth Regiment.

J. S. Neal.

M. H. Reed.

Philip Schweichert.

Nicholas Thompson, Company A, One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment.

C. E. Taylor.

George Stephens.

W. C. G. Krauss.

Fred Unkerholtz.

Henry Rosenbauer, Company C, One Hundred and Fifty-second Regiment.

C. E. Beardsley.

Henry Thrailkill.

David Catlett.

John W. Wolfe.

T. T. Wright, Company I, Ninety-ninth Regiment.

B. P. Eckbaugh, Company D, Twenty-first Regiment.

E. P. McKenzie, Company D, One Hundred and Thirtieth Regiment.

T. B. Conn, Company B, One Hundred and Fiftieth Regiment.

H. W. Sackett, Company B, One Hundred and Fiftieth Regiment.

William Stephens.

Christopher Ury, Company I, Ninety-ninth Regiment.

A. G. Bogardus.

G. C. Williams, Company K, Fiftieth Regiment.

Thomas Snyder, Company E, Eighty-first Regiment.

E. L. Sandles, Company D, One Hundred and Twenty-first Regiment.

Isaac Thrapp, Company I, Ninety-ninth Regiment.

T. C. Hipkins, Company K, One Hundred and Eighty-second Regiment.

W. H. Handy, Company H, Sixty-seventh Regiment.

F. M. Blakeman, Company K, One Hundred and Eighty-second Regiment.

Anton Dreup, Company I, Thirty-seventh Regiment.

C. H. Hathaway, Company I, Fifty-seventh Regiment.

H. C. Carr, Company K, One Hundred and Eighty-fifth Regiment.

J. R. Smith, Company I, Ninety-ninth Regiment.

John Russett, Company G, One Hundred and First Regiment.

Alexander McMonigal, Company C, One Hundred and Eighty-sixth Regiment.

James W. Bailey, Company E, Eighty-first Regiment.

When the new court house was built, a room was set aside for the Grand Army of the Republic. Here they keep their records, hold their regular meetings and gather for a social hour. The room is well equipped with furniture and presents an attractive appearance at all times. A few years ago the government presented the post with three cannon, which were placed in the court house yard. One was christened "Old Putnam" and the other "General McPherson." When the present court house was erected they were all removed. Two are now in the city park and the other is in the fair grounds.

The present officers of the post are as follow: C. M. Hathaway, post commander; E. A. McKenzie, senior vice-commander; Chris Ury, junior vice-commander; David R. Jenkins, adjutant; H. C. Carr, quartermaster sergeant; Aaron Overbeck, surgeon; T. C. Hipkins, chaplain; Isaac Thrapp, officer of the day; J. J. Frey, officer of the guard; W. H. Handy, patriotic instructor. At the present time there are no Putnam county veterans in either the soldiers' home at Sandusky or in the one at Dayton, a record of which the county may well be proud. Every living soldier in the county who served ninety days or more is now drawing a pension. The county commissioners make an annual appropriation of fifteen dollars to each post for Memorial Day expenses, and allow seventy dollars for the burial expenses of old soldiers.

#### OTHER G. A. R. POSTS IN PUTNAM COUNTY.

There have been nine other Grand Army posts in Putnam county, as follows: Columbus Grove, Oglevie, No. 64; Continental, A. V. Rice, No. 718; Continental, Henry Beemer, No. 214; Belmore; Kalida, Gibbons, No. 193; Vaughnsville, Joe Collar, No. 192; Gilboa, Lindsay, No. 75; Leipsic, Daniel Miller, No. 78; Dupont, Weiser, No. 93.

Of these posts, Belmore and Kalida are discontinued and all of the others have only a few members left. The Henry Beemer Post at Con-





SOLDIERS' MONUMENT, COLUMBUS GROVE.

tinental was formerly at North Creek, but on account of so many of its members living in or near to Continental, the post was transferred to that place.

#### SOLDIERS' MONUMENT AT COLUMBUS GROVE.

A beautiful soldiers' monument was dedicated at Columbus Grove on May 20, 1915, and, despite the inclement weather, the occasion was the means of bringing a large crowd to the town. The Altsteatter, Delphos and Shannon bands furnished excellent music during the day, while Comrade Keirn's drum corps helped to stir up the enthusiasm of the rain-stricken crowd. There was an imposing parade, which wound up in the large tent of the Shannon Show Company, which was showing in the town that week. Mayor Poast made an appropriate welcoming address and was followed by Cyrus E. Locher, of Cleveland, who spoke on "The Boys in Blue." M. D. Long gave such a stirring talk that the people generously gave about five hundred dollars which went towards paying for the monument. The final address was made by Gen. J. Kent Hamilton, commander of the Grand Army of the Republic of Ohio, who closed an eloquent speech with the formal unveiling of the monument.

The monument, which was made possible through the untiring efforts of the Civic League of Columbus Grove, has a total height of sixteen feet and ten inches. It is cut from gray granite and makes a truly imposing appearance. The base and pedestal have a total height of ten feet and four inches, the whole being surmounted by the standing statue of an infantryman, six feet and a half in height. The monument stands at one end of the town park, while at the other end of the park is located a beautiful new granite drinking fountain.

#### SOLDIERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

We have a record of but two soldiers of the Revolutionary War who are buried in Putnam county. One of these, Israel Hubbard, is buried in the old graveyard on the Mallahan farm in Riley township, while the other, William Jack, is buried on what is known as the Pearman farm, in Ottawa township.

#### SOLDIERS OF THE WAR OF 1812.

Among those who served in the War of 1812 and who came to this county in 1834-35, we have a record of the following: Frederick Eck, Matthew Chambers, Nathaniel McClure, Andrew McClure and William Galbreath, all of whom died many years ago.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### SIDELIGHTS ON PUTNAM COUNTY HISTORY.

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#### BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS OF PUTNAM COUNTY IN 1870.

The following list of business and professional interests in Putnam county is taken from Dun's Report of 1870 and may prove interesting even after the lapse of forty-five years:

##### BELMORE.

William E. Caddy, physician; Doctor Drain, physician; G. W. Edwards, general store; H. Ensminger, general store; John Gibblè, boots and shoes; C. Green, wagon maker; William Knoke, mill, etc.; V. L. Ovenchain, dry goods and groceries; John Pennel, hotel; Speaker Brothers, general store; A. R. Van Doran, drugs, groceries, etc.

##### COLUMBUS GROVE.

William Breckbill, stoves and tinware; Charles Busche, grocery; A. W. Chase, grocery and bakery; Thomas N. Day, general store; A. H. Day & Bro., general store; C. H. Day & Co., grain; A. Edmonds, wagon maker; Edwards & Ward, bricklayers; El kell & Bro., saw-mill; John Greek, grocery; Fred Hannert, shoes; E. A. Hartley, hardware; E. Henderson & Co., stave factory; David Jones, saddler; Jacob Kohli, wagon maker; McHenry & Gessells, produce; Simon Maple, dry goods, etc.; I. W. Martin, flour-mill; Martin & Son, general store; Joseph Oglevie, carpenter; A. Oglevie, steam mill; Henry Oglevie, saw-mill; Mrs. E. Palmer, milliner; Anderson Reeder, saw-mill; Jacob Risser, grocery; John Rollands, saddler; Alexander Slemmons, blacksmith; J. O. Smith, cooper; J. B. Sprague, drugs and groceries; Samuel Stirlen, furniture; Joseph Tingle, merchant tailor; Simon Turner, physician; John D. Viers, cabinet maker; Ward & Arnold, groceries.



## FT. JENNINGS.

Louis Boehmer, mills; Funk, silversmith; F. H. Klakamp, grocery and tavern; Christian Raabe, dry goods and groceries; William Recker, grocery

## GILBOA.

Stellman Blodgett, cabinet maker; Jacob Bressler & Co., general store; Pressley Coron, lumber, stock; John Cunningham, miller; W. H. Fisher, groceries and drugs; James Fuld, shoes; J. S. Hill, drugs; G. Kisabeth, shoes; A. D. McClure, dry goods, etc.; W. McClure, tavern.

## GLANDORF.

Altekruse & Son, general store; Joseph Baker, shoes; Frank Brinkman, wagons; John G. Buckhold, hotel; J. W. Ellerbrock & Co., woolen factory; Henry Evers, shoemaker; Anthony Fox, shoemaker; Joseph Gerding, saddler; Ferd Gerding, harness; Henry Guelker, shoes; William Helker, grocery; F. W. Hoffman, general store; Hubert Huber, physicians; Hueve & Nartger, bricklayers; Henry Klassing, blacksmith; Kolhoff & Doepker, saw-mill; F. Landgraber, general store; George Loudensbach, tailor; Henry H. Meyers, shoemaker; Moenke & Co., flouring-mill; William Rampe, shoemaker; Mrs. E. Ricknier, grocery; John Schmenck, grocery; Henry Shafer, blacksmith; M. Shoemaker, tailor; Blasius Street, furniture; Nicholas Thom, wagons; Henry Wortcutter, tailor.

## KALIDA.

S. D. Ayers, grocery; Wilton H. Crain, wagons; Lee & Bro., drugs and dry goods; S. Metheney & Co., general store; John Overbeck, cabinet maker; L. L. Parker, dry goods; John T. Thrift, physician.

## LEIPSIC.

A. Ball, shoemaker; Frank Eastman, mill; R. Edgecomb, dry goods and groceries; S. S. Emery, physician; Joseph Faber, carriage; Folk & Son, clothing and grain; Hammet & Alt, general store; Daniel Leffler, grocery; Charles Mann, hotel; Joseph Opdyke, saw-mill; J. D. Timmerman, drugs; Jacob Werner, lumber; V. Winkler, shoemaker; A. J. Young, groceries and drugs; Solomon Young, drugs and dry goods.

## VAUGHNSVILLE.

Peter Breeling, hotel and grocery; T. Henderson, dry goods and groceries.

## OTTAWA.

H. F. Beach, wagon maker; C. E. Beardsley, physician; John Beck, dry goods, etc.; R. J. Beeney, baker and grocery; J. S. Bowers, furniture; Andrew Brinkman, blacksmith; Sarah Buahler, milliner; Burkmier & Gosling, saddlers; C. M. Carson, hotel; Carnahan & Ault, builders; Mrs. M. Cover, milliner; M. C. & J. P. Ewing, produce; Foltz & Taylor, marble; John Fipp, groceries; Samuel F. Foltz, livery; Freese & Raff, dry goods; Joseph Gerding, harness; F. S. Godfrey, baker and grocery; N. Goetchius, foundry; Mrs. J. Goldsmith, grocery; N. M. Haviland, groceries and provisions; J. S. Hale, furniture; A. J. Hamilton, tinner; Thomas H. B. Hipkins, groceries and produce; Thomas H. B. Hipkins & Sons, dry goods and groceries; Holtz, Goetchius & Co., manufacturers hubs, etc.; Kelly & Hauck, drugs; George D. Kinder, printing; J. C. and H. F. Knowles, insurance; Laskey, Pratt & Campbell, stoves, etc.; Frank Lassance, clothing; Lentzy & Willoughby, merchant tailors; David Lowery, hardware; McBride & Humberger, steam mill; McCoy, Slauson & Co., dry goods and groceries; Miles & Son, builders; A. S. Miller, contractor; Misner & Brockman, boots and shoes; Lyman M. Moe, physician; J. T. Moorehead, books, notions; Newman & Co., dry goods; Freeman F. Paul, physician; E. Pomeroy, groceries and notions; C. H. Rice & Co., bankers; Michael Row, hotel; Charles Schimpff, jeweler; William Schmitschulte, groceries; Mrs. F. Sargent, milliner; Samuel Shoup, drugs; John P. Simon, groceries and provisions; Slausson, Ewing & Cox, bankers; Slawson & Ewing, real estate dealers; J. R. Thompson, photographer and picture; C. E. Tupper, physician; Lycurgus Willoughby, hotel.

## OTTOVILLE.

Joseph C. Forrier, groceries and dry goods; Gerhart Otte, dry goods and groceries; Charles Wannemacher, shoemaker; Mathias Winkleman, dry goods and grocery.

## PENDLETON.

Joe Keinie, dry goods and groceries; John Lacont, grocery; James McBride, tailor; J. C. Snyder, dry goods and groceries; Mark Thompson, general store.

## THE STORY OF JOHNNY APPLESEED.

Who has not heard of Johnny Appleseed? He spent his life in the woods, wore cast-off clothes, tramped the year around in his bare feet, had little or no money and died in comparative obscurity and yet did more to promote the raising of apples in the state of Ohio than any other man. The fruit he was responsible for raising would fill millions of bushel baskets.

Johnny Appleseed for years wandered through Ohio planting apple seeds, collected at cider mills and carried in a little sack over his shoulder, in practically every cleared tract he could find. Often he would clear pieces of land in the heart of the wilderness and plant either sprouts or seeds. So well known did he become that people forgot his real name was John Chapman and called him by his soubriquet.

Johnny Appleseed was born in 1775, at Springfield, Massachusetts, the son of Nathaniel Chapman, and came with his half brother to Ohio in 1801. Soon afterward a desire to wander and develop apple orchards struck the young man and, abandoning civilization, he set forth. As early as 1811 he had become known all over the state and before he left it to go west, where the ax of the pioneer was not heard, he was probably the best known man in the state. Few communities did not boast of orchards planted by his hands. He died in Allen county, Ohio, in the summer of 1847, aged seventy-two years, forty-six of which had been consecrated to his self-imposed mission.

Johnny Appleseed was a man of many manias. He abhorred the extinction of all forms of life. One time, when lying before his fire in the woods, he saw that gnats and mosquitoes were flying to their death in the flames. He promptly arose, extinguished the fire and permitted himself to be bitten all night by the pests. At another time he sought shelter from cold and snow in a hollow log, which he found occupied by a bear and her cubs. He quickly withdrew and laid in the snow and cold all night. At another time he accidentally killed a rattlesnake which had bitten him. He blamed it on an ungodly passion.

Johnny Appleseed was an apostle of Swedenborg, whose literature he distributed among the people he met. Once, when his supply had become exhausted, he tore his only remaining book in two and gave one part to each of the two men with whom he was talking.

He was twice jilted by young women whom he expected to marry.

## JOHNNY APPLESEED VISITS THE RESERVATION.

While the early settlers found a number of good-sized apple trees on the reservation when they first came here, no one of our pioneer citizens knew of Johnny's visits prior to the year 1833, when he came down the river in a canoe laden with young apple trees. It is stated that wherever he could find a white settler he would furnish him with trees without regard to the settler's ability or disposition to pay for the same. His last trip down the Blanchard was in the year 1841. The history of this remarkable man and great philanthropist is so well known throughout Ohio, especially in the northwest portion of the state, that it is not necessary to give it in detail here.

Many years ago the writer of this history interviewed a large number of the pioneer citizens of the county in regard to events and incidents connected with its early history. Among those interviewed was Mr. Brower, who settled on the banks of the Blanchard river, in Greensburg township. Among the incidents Mr. Brower related was one referring to Johnny Appleseed, who figured as a "tourist" in this part of the state from the close of the war of 1812 and for some twenty years after. The present generation is no doubt familiar with the eccentricities of this man and the life he led, therefore we will but briefly notice one of his visits to this county, at which time he paid a visit to Mr. Brower, who states that during the visit Johnny exhibited his usual characteristics or eccentricities of habits. While on this visit he brought with him a big supply of apple seeds, which were encased in pumice from cider-mills in western Pennsylvania, the source of his supply. Johnny made it a business to plant these seeds on every available spot along the Blanchard river and in a few years afterward the early pioneers gathered many apples from the trees grown from the seed planted by Johnny, and a number of the trees bore fruit for many years after the organization of the county. When he planted the seed he usually put some brush around the spot to protect the young trees, yet as the county was cleared up and brush burned, many of the young trees were destroyed.

## EARLY TAVERNS.

Prior to 1850 there were many taverns in Putnam county, and places for the entertainment of man and beast were located about every three miles along the roads generally traveled in those days. In every small village two or more taverns existed. In Gilboa, in 1847-1850, taverns were

kept by Matthias Chambers, William McClure, William Hipkins and Christ-tan Hensy, while in Kalida taverns were kept by Arthur E. Martin, William Phillips, James H. Vail, T. R. McClure and Mr. Foss. It was a common custom then to have bars, where liquor was sold at the modest sum of five cents per drink. Then there was only a state tax of five dollars a year for the privilege of dispensing strong drinks; no revenue or county tax being required. Beer and ale were not then a common beverage.

#### AN EARLY DISTILLERY.

There was one distillery of whisky in the county. It was known as Ash distillery, located in Jennings township, near the canal. It is common report that often, when government revenue officers were expected to call, weights would be put on barrels of liquor which were sunk in the canal, until after Uncle Sam's men had gone. A few years ago a barrel was found in the canal, after being there many years. It is supposed that this one was overlooked and forgotten by the owners. Of course canal whisky is always good.

#### COUNTY EXPENSES IN 1849.

The county commissioners' report for the year ending June 4, 1849, certifies that the amount paid prosecuting attorney, for one year's salary, was \$108.33; paid clerk of courts, yearly allowance, \$43.33; paid for stationery, during year, \$49.50; paid for postage by the county for all officials, \$2.83; paid for wolf scalps, \$39; auditor's salary, \$499; treasurer's salary, \$489.38.

In the year 1849, the three county commissioners received sixty dollars for per diem allowances. These items show how expenses have increased in sixty-six years.

#### KALIDA MARKET, MARCH, 1847.

As published in the *Venture* at that time:

For purposes of comparison, the following market quotations are reproduced from the *Kalida Venture* of March, 1847: Wheat, per bushel, 75 cents; corn, per bushel, 25 cents; oats, per bushel, 15 cents; clover seed, per bushel, \$3.00; timothy seed, per bushel, \$1.00; flax seed, per bushel, 62 cents; beans, per bushel, 75 cents; potatoes, per bushel, 25 cents; pork, pickled, per pound, 4 cents; beef, fresh, per pound, 4 cents; butter, per pound, 9 cents; lard, per pound, 6 cents; ham, per pound, 6 cents; tallow, per pound, 10 cents; maple sugar, per pound, 10 cents; eggs, per dozen, 5 cents.

## CHOLERA AT GILBOA IN 1852.

In 1852, during the epidemic of cholera, Gilboa was the worst afflicted village in the county. It had nineteen cases of the dread disease, from which fourteen deaths occurred, only five persons who had the disease recovering. A great many of the people fled from the village, and only two doctors remained to administer to the afflicted. One of these two was Dr. T. E. Paul and the other Doctor Thatcher, a Hungarian by birth, who died with the disease at the time.

## EARLY LIQUOR VIOLATIONS.

The contention now in regard to the liquor question is not a new thing, or "boot-legging" a new species of crime under the laws of this state. Eighty-one years ago (1834), at the first term of court ever held in this county, the first grand jury convened brought in six indictments, four of which were "for selling spirits without a license." The first criminal case in the first court was for this offense, and the dispenser of the spirits was fined twenty-five dollars and costs. In those days a license to traffic in liquor was required and the amount of the license was five dollars. Upon the adoption of the new Constitution in 1851-52 the license law became obsolete and a penalty was prescribed for the sale of liquor and everyone selling it laid himself liable to a fine. This condition existed up to the time of the enactment of the law requiring dealers to pay a tax. Up to this latter date nearly every grand jury indicted from one to a dozen saloon keepers. They were each fined about twenty-five dollars and costs for each offense, which was paid and the dealer proceeded in the business until the next court convened, when in many instances he was again indicted and paid his fine. In some cases, a term in the county jail was added to the fine.

## AN EARLY POSTMASTER OF GILBOA.

In looking over some old documents in our possession we came across the following letter, written by the second assistant postmaster-general to Hon. William Sawyer, notifying Mr. Sawyer of the appointment of Stansberry Sutton as postmaster at Gilboa, this county, with Mr. Sawyer's letter to Mr. Sutton informing him of his appointment:

“Postoffice Department,  
“Appointment Office,

Dec. 10th, 1845.

“Sir—I have the honor to inform you that the postmaster-general has appointed Stansberry Sutton postmaster at Gilboa, in the state of Ohio, in place of J. E. Creighton, resigned. I am respectfully your obedient servant,

“W. I. BROWN.

“Second Assistant Postmaster-General.

“To the Honorable William Sawyer,  
House of Representatives.”

Mr. Sawyer notifies Mr. Sutton as follows, written at the bottom of the same page as the foregoing:

“Dear Sir—Your appointment as p. m. at Gilboa is sent to you. The above is a notification of the fact to me.

“With respects, yours,

“WILLIAM SAWYER.”

There are very few of our older citizens who do not remember Stansberry Sutton, one of the most highly respected and prominent citizens of Gilboa and Ottawa for many years, and who died in Ottawa in the year 1879, after a long and useful life.

#### A KALIDA RAT-TRAP.

In 1852 a resident of Kalida invented a rat trap which is duly mentioned in the *Venture* at that time: “The trap consisted of a hollow stick, about seven feet long, closed at one end, and after putting some grain and litter in it he set the trap in his hay mow and covered it with hay. The next morning he plugged the hole in the trap, and carried it out and killed the rats.” The inventor claimed that the trap was a great success.

#### THE WOLF SCALP INDUSTRY.

During the early history of Putnam county, many wolves infested the county as well as the other counties in this part of the state. At that time the state paid a bounty for the scalps of wolves, and the early pioneers were industrious in hunting them. The money they received for the scalps was certainly a blessing to them in those days, as money was very scarce and what was received from this source paid taxes and afforded now and then a better living in several respects. All scalps had to be presented to the

clerk of the court, who issued an order on the county treasurer for the amount. The order called for four dollars and twenty-five cents for each scalp. Persons presenting scalps had to swear that they killed the wolves.

The following is a sample of the affidavits required to be made:

"You, George Sweiger, do solemnly swear that the scalps now produced by you are the scalps of wolves taken by you within the county of Putnam, within twenty days last past, and verily believe the same to have been under the age of six months, and that you have not spared the life of any she wolf within your power to kill, with a view to increase the breed.

"GEORGE SWEIGER.

"Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20th day of May, A. D. 1834.

"DANIEL W. GRAY, Clerk pro tem."

The above certificate was numbered 11, and is the earliest certificate we find on file.

The George Sweiger above mentioned was quite a success as a wolf hunter, as he presented many of the scalps of wolves killed at various times. During the period from 1834 to 1836, many wolves were killed in this county, and about a hundred were killed during the year 1834. Many persons killed only a single wolf, while others seemed to make it a business.

Among those drawing the most money during the year 1834, for wolf scalps, were the following: George Sweiger, \$60; William Kenny, \$42.75; John Woods, \$26.75; Andrew Clawson, \$20; John Elder, \$21.25; John McGill, \$15; Joseph Nichols, \$15; Leonard Sweiger, \$12.50; John Neill, \$9.25, and George Blessing, \$7.50.

The last wolf known to be bred in this county was killed by a hunter, near Belmore, many years ago.

Miles Crow, many years ago a resident of Greensburg township, was a great hunter and was possibly the last man in the county to trap or kill wolves. He was successful in killing more wolves than any other man, after the year 1840.

An incident is related of one of Ottawa's first settlers wherein about every male citizen of that time became very much excited. In March of 1835, a man who lived at the river bank on the west side of what is now known as Walnut street, had a barn yard where now is located the old wheel works. He had in the yard a flock of sheep. The snow had been deep on the ground for nearly a month. A pack of wolves came across the river and made a raid on the sheep. About every man in the village turned out to fight the wolves. In the fight two valuable dogs were killed by the wolves,



while but a few of the wolves were captured. The owner of the dogs greatly regretted their loss, as in that day a good hunting dog was valued at a greater price than an entire flock of sheep.

In waterworks park, in Ottawa, may now be seen one of the traps used for capturing wolves in the early history of the county.

#### THE FIRST SCHOOL ON THE RESERVATION.

The first school taught on the Indian reservation was held in a part of a double log cabin owned by Christian Huber. This cabin was located on the farm now owned by Mr. Miller, and situated immediately north of the present waterworks plant. Miss Priscilla Compton taught the first school in the first school house in Ottawa, that being located immediately north of the residence for a time occupied by Thomas Carnahan. This school house was built of logs, the seats and desks were made of slabs, and the floor was of puncheons.

#### SELECTING POSTMASTERS IN 1845.

It is not generally known that the people of the various towns of Putnam county helped to select their postmasters seventy years ago. Such, however, appears to have been the case, if the report given in a local paper is to be believed. The following extract from the *Kalida Venture* tells its own story:

##### *"Postoffice Meeting.*

"In pursuance to notice heretofore given the Democratic citizens transacting their business through the Postoffice at Kalida met at the office of Ben Metcalf and proceeded to nominate a suitable person to be recommended to the Postmaster General to fill the vacancy in the Postoffice at Kalida to be occasioned by the resignation of M. M. Gillett the present incumbent:

"Which resulted on the fifth balloting, in the choice of Winchton Risley.

"On motion the meeting adjourned without day, March 22nd, 1845. Stephen White, Chairman. Ben Metcalf, Secretary."

#### IRON BRIDGES OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

There seems to have been considerable discussion in the local newspapers concerning the first iron bridge in the county. From the best evidence obtainable it appears that it was built over the Blanchard at Cuba

in Greensburg township. The Auglaize and Blanchard rivers, with their many tributaries, have necessitated the building of a large number of expensive bridges. There are no less than five bridges across the Blanchard at Ottawa, although the county built three of them, the others being erected by the steam and electric roads which come into the town. The county has built fourteen iron bridges over the Blanchard river and eight across the Auglaize; in addition, there are scores of bridges across the many tributaries of the two larger streams of the county. It is not too much to say that the spanning of the rivers and streams of Putnam county has cost nearly half a million dollars within the past half century.

#### EARLY DEBATING SOCIETIES.

In the early history of Putnam county, debates on public questions were one of the most popular features of entertainment, and debating societies were in vogue in every community where a school house existed. The *Kalida Venture* of March 21, 1848, contains the following notice: "There will be a meeting of the Kalida Lyceum held on the evening of March 28. The question for debate will be 'Ought all laws for the collection of debts be repealed.'"

#### A WONDERFUL RAIL FENCE.

A short time ago, John F. Clevenger, of Columbus Grove, made an interesting discovery while tearing out an old rail fence. He found no less than thirty-two different kinds of timber represented in the old fence row and the enumeration of this varied assortment of timber throws an interesting light upon the character of the early forests of Putnam county. The complete list of trees which were represented in this wonderful rail fence is as follows: Buckeye, native poplar, Lombardy poplar, Carolina poplar, black locust, honey locust, black ash, white ash, burr oak, red oak, white oak, jack oak, beech, sugar, maple, sycamore, pawpaw, dogwood, ironwood, linden, willow, cottonwood, black walnut, white walnut, shellbark hickory, smoothbark hickory, white and red elm.

#### COLORED PEOPLE IN PUTNAM COUNTY.

The colored man has never been a welcome resident in Putnam county and at the present time there are none living in the county. However, there

have been a few colored people here in the past and history records that at least one colored man, by the name of Mines, voted in Blanchard township. This particular son of Africa worked for William Guy.

THE FIRST DEED RECORDED IN PUTNAM COUNTY, 1827.

"United States to Henry Wing.

"Certificate No. 427. The United States of America :

"To All to Whom These Presents Shall Come Greeting :

"Whereas Henry Wing, of Putnam County, Ohio, has deposited in the General Land Office of the United States a Certificate of the Register of The Land Office at Piqua, Ohio, whereby it appears that Full Payment has been made by the said Henry Wing according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820 entitled, 'An Act making further provisions for the sale of the Public Lands for The North fraction of the North half of Section fourteen, in township one North of Range six east in the district of lands offered for sale at Piqua, Ohio, containing twenty-one acres and thirty-hundredths of an acre, according to the office plat of the survey of the said lands returned to the land office by the Surveyor General,' which said tract has been purchased by the said Henry Wing.

"Now, Know Ye That the United States of America, in consideration of the promises and in conformity with the several acts of Congress in such case made and provided, Have Given and Granted, and by these presents Do Give and Grant unto the said Henry Wing and his heirs the said tract described; To have and to Hold the same, together with all the rights and privileges immunities and appertinances, of whatsoever nature Thereunto belonging, unto the said Henry Wing and to his heirs and assigns forever.

"In Testimony Whereof I, John Quincy Adams, President of the United States of America, have caused These letters to be made Patent and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

"Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, The thirteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven and of the Independence of the United States the fifty-first.

"By the President, J. Q. A.

"G. G. Commissioner of the General Land Office.

"Recorded Vol. 60, page 421, Ohio Vol."

## SALOONS OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

When the present liquor law went into effect in the fall of 1913, there were thirty-two saloons in Putnam county. Since the number is now restricted to one for every thousand inhabitants, there are only nineteen saloons. They are distributed as follows: Five in Ottawa, two in Continental and one each in the towns of Ottoville, Ft. Jennings, Cloverdale, Gilboa, Kalida, Glandorf, Miller City and West Leipsic. In addition, there is one saloon in Monterey township and one in Jennings township. These two saloons are really in the towns of Ottoville and Ft. Jennings, respectively, but the boards of both towns changed the corporation lines so that the saloons would legally be in the township. There is a saloon in Liberty township, just outside of the corporate limits of Leipsic, and another in Pleasant township, adjoining the corporation of Columbus Grove. Leipsic and Columbus are both "dry" as the result of local option elections.

Saloon licenses are now granted by a county liquor licensing board appointed by the governor. The first appointees for Putnam county were Frank Gmeiner and Walter Stevenson, both of whom received their commissions on April 6, 1913. Mr. Stevenson resigned on April 1, 1915, his resignation taking effect on the 15th of the same month. The members receive the nominal sum of twenty dollars a month for their services. When the law went into effect, in October, 1913, there were thirty-two saloons in the county and fifty applications before the board for the nineteen saloons which was the limit allowed by the law. Each applicant must pay five dollars at the time of application, and, if granted, he must pay a county tax of one thousand dollars and a government tax of twenty-five dollars. A renewal or transfer costs sixty dollars.

## THE GREATEST FLOOD OF OTTAWA.

In the latter part of March, 1913, Ottawa emerged from the greatest flood of its history. No loss of life occurred. The hungry waters got no victims. The loss in dollars ran into hundreds of thousands. The town was swept by water many feet deep. Out of the darkness of Monday night, March 24, 1913, came the rising, rushing, raging flood. Swift and sure it went high, then higher, then highest in the history of the town. Homes had to be deserted, and on Tuesday morning the town sent out a cry for help. The quiet citizen saw the need of quick and daring action. As the night brings out the stars, so did the flood bring out the good there is in men. No

one faltered. The man from the common walks of life became the real hero. Wind, water, cold and storm were laughed at by men who met the occasion and were equal to the task. All railways were paralyzed. Boats were lacking. Travel was at a standstill. But lightning flashed a message over the wires, and soon men, boats, food and help were on the way. From Leipsic, Columbus Grove, Lima, Toledo, St. Marys and other places relief came at double quick. That it did, was a blessing, for Ottawa was in dire distress and sore need. Out of the whole situation came a spirit of humanity, heroism, and helpfulness that was almost sublime. Lives were risked to save other lives. Property was secondary and the welfare of human beings was the first concern.

Farmers came with wagon loads of supplies of food and fuel. This kindly action was of their own motion. They did not wait to be asked to help. On this Sunday morning, Ottawa has the appearance of a flood-swept town. Wreckage, debris, washouts, and a hundred tokens showed the power of little drops of water when angry and united into torrents and currents.

#### THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF PUTNAM COUNTY.

When Putnam county was organized in 1834, the Democratic and Whig parties were just getting definitely separated. The twenty years preceding this time had seen only one party, the Democratic, and whatever differences existed politically were personal. Adams, Jackson and Clay ran for President on the same ticket, their followers being known as Adams, Jackson or Clay men.

In the early thirties the old Democratic party, dominated by the hero of the battle of New Orleans, began to disintegrate and by 1832 it was evident that Jackson's control of the party was fast slipping away from him. Clay, his greatest opponent, was forging to the front as a leader and seriously disputing the old warrior's leadership. It was in the midst of this new alignment of political parties that Putnam county came onto the scene of action, and both of the parties began to lay their plans to capture the township and county offices.

The history of political control in Putnam county may be very briefly summed up. The Democrats have been in complete control ever since the county was organized with the exception of a brief period when the Republicans elected three county officials. In 1852-53 there was a big effort made by the Whigs to gain control and with the aid of the disgruntled Democrats, they came very near succeeding. A secret organization, political in nature,

known as the Knownothings, came into existence at this time, which ostensibly sought to confine all offices to native-born Americans. Several lodges were organized in Putnam county, the largest being in Gilboa, Blanchard township. To combat this organization, the Democrats organized an equal number of lodges under the name of the "Sag Nichts" or "Say Nothings." Both organizations used all the tricks of seasoned politicians, but the result terminated favorably to the Democrats in the succeeding election.

The decade preceding the Civil War was one of great strife in political matters and scores of anti-slavery Democrats left the old party and allied themselves with the new Republican party. However, the supremacy of the Democrats was never seriously threatened, in Putnam county, although its majorities were cut down. From 1855 to the opening of the war, the tension in political affairs was often at the breaking point, and it took cool heads to keep matters from degenerating into open encounters at times. Following the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska act, the Whig party went out of existence and in the two following years the Democratic party lost hundreds of thousands of its leaders in the Northern states. In Ohio the new party at first styled itself the Union party, and later hyphenated itself into the Union-Republican party. Although many of the Democrats joined the new party, there was a corresponding shift from the old Whig party to the Democrats, the defection being due to the slavery question. The net result was that the Democrats were able to maintain their hold on political affairs in the county.

While ante-bellum politics were in such a seething state, there were large political gatherings in every town and village of the county and enthusiasm often outran men's better judgment. The greatest gathering, however, occurred the second year after the close of the war. It was held in Ottawa, on September 19, 1867, and Hon. Clement L. Vallandigham was the orator of the day. The newspapers of the day said that there were twenty thousand people present and that the parade was two and a half miles in length. It consisted of decorated floats, wagons, horsemen, bands, etc., and must have been an imposing spectacle. Many big meetings have been held since then, but none to compare with this particular one in magnitude.

Like other counties in the state of Ohio, Putnam has had its Prohibition, Socialist, Progressive, Independent and People's parties, yet they have been but as "side shows" traveling with the two great parties. As has been said, the Democrats have always been in power in the county, with the exception of a short time. At one time (in the early nineties) some Democratic officials became derelict in their duties and three of them were sent to the penitentiary. The people rose up in their might and elected a Republican county treasurer,

prosecuting attorney and clerk for two years each and a county auditor for two terms of three years each.

#### CELEBRATION OVER THE VICTORY OF DEWEY.

The most enthusiastic celebration ever held in Ottawa followed the receipt of the news of Dewey's bloodless victory at Manila bay, May 1, 1898. The celebration occurred the night of May 2, and for hours bells were rung, whistles blown and general pandemonium reigned. Red-fire lighted up the main streets and a happy people gave vent to their heartfelt appreciation of Admiral Dewey and his splendid victory.

#### FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION.

The greatest Fourth of July celebration ever held in the county occurred in 1876. Ottawa and Columbus Grove both celebrated that year and each town tried to outdo the other and get the largest crowd. For weeks before that day, both towns used every effort to advertise their attractions and a number of unusual features were promised by the committees who had charge of affairs in the respective towns. As might be expected, Ottawa had the largest crowd, although Columbus Grove was not far behind in point of attendance. The crowd at Ottawa was estimated at from twelve to fifteen thousand people, and such another celebration was never held before or since. More noise was made, more popcorn consumed, more lemonade drunk and more powder burned on that day than any other in the history of the town.

#### POPULATION STATISTICS.

	1910	1900	1890
Blanchard township, including Gilboa village ----	1,605	1,778	1,688
Gilboa village -----	345	346	264
Greensburg township -----	1,078	1,211	1,098
Jackson township -----	1,113	1,308,	1,235
Jennings township, including Fort Jennings vil- lage -----	1,629	1,787	1,741
Fort Jennings village -----	336	322	286
Liberty township, including West Leipsic village	1,608	2,775	2,697
West Leipsic village -----	253	346	502
Monroe township, including Continental village--	2,439	2,775	2,697

	1910	1900	1890
Continental village .....	1,074	1,104	895
Monterey township, including Ottoville village---	1,652	1,711	1,507
Ottoville village .....	477	369	—
Ottawa township, including Glandorf and Ottawa villages .....	3,805	4,207	3,381
Glandorf village .....	558	749	571
Ottawa village .....	2,182	2,322	1,717
Palmer township, including Miller City village---	1,612	1,990	1,864
Miller City village .....	218	163	—
Perry township, including Cloverdale and Dupont village .....	1,581	1,736	1,710
Cloverdale village .....	222	—	—
Dupont village .....	334	370	531
Pleasant township, including Columbus Grove village .....	3,194	3,401	3,286
Columbus Grove village .....	1,802	1,935	1,677
Riley township, including Pandora village-----	1,975	1,831	1,566
Pandora village .....	562	409	—
Sugar Creek township .....	1,337	1,416	1,429
Union township, including Kalida village .....	1,810	1,619	1,482
Kalida village .....	770	622	444
Van Buren township, including Belmore and Leipsic villages .....	3,534	3,687	3,444
Belmore village .....	298	334	414
Leipsic village .....	1,773	1,726	1,353
Total .....	29,972	32,525	30,188

The population of Putnam county for the decades prior to 1890 was as follows: 1830, 230; 1840, 5,189; 1850, 7,221; 1860, 12,808; 1870, 17,081; 1880, 23,713.

#### HIGHWAY STATISTICS.

The following highway statistics are taken from the last annual report of James R. Marker, state highway commissioner of Ohio, issued on March 15, 1915. The first table exhibits the mileage and type of roads in the county outside of the municipalities.



Type of Road.	Total	Inter-Co.		
	Miles January 1, 1915.	Imp. Roads March 15, 1915.	Roads on January 11, 1915.	Roads Imp. by State.
Concrete -----	----	----	----	0.61
Macadam -----	467	498	101.4	6.08
Gravel -----	110	90	15.8	0
Earth -----	590	0	11.1	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total -----	1,167	588	128.3	6.69

The statement of road and bridge expenditures for the four years (1910-1913) discloses the fact that the county has spent nearly three hundred and fifty thousand dollars in that short time on roads and bridges. The figures for 1913 include all expenditures up to and including August 31, 1914, paid out by the county commissioners and township trustees, exclusive of the money expended by the state.

	1910	1911	1912	1913
Road repairs -----	\$ 25,956	\$20,058	\$ 388	\$ 2,387
Road construction -----	82,379	50,304	17,127	93,277
Bridge and culvert repairs	1,531	1,788	4,202	2,925
Bridge & Culvert construc'n	6,216	3,536	5,849	14,205
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total -----	\$116,082	\$75,686	\$27,566	\$112,794







*John Edwards,*





# BIOGRAPHICAL

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JOHN EDWARDS.

In the golden sayings of Epictetus there is no nobler utterance than this: "What wouldst thou be found doing when overtaken by Death? If I might choose, I would be found doing some deed of true humanity, of wide import, beneficent and noble. But if I may not be found engaged in aught so lofty, let me hope at least for this—what none may hinder, what is surely in my power—that I may be found raising up in myself that which had fallen; learning to deal more wisely with the things of sense; working out my own tranquillity, and thus rendering that which is due to every relation of life.

"If death surprise me thus employed, it is enough if I can stretch forth my hands to God and say, 'The faculties which I received at Thy hands for apprehending this Thine administration, I have not neglected. As far as in me lay, I have done Thee no dishonor. Behold how I have used the senses, the primary conceptions which Thou gavest me. Have I ever laid anything to Thy charge? Have I ever murmured at aught that came to pass, or wished it otherwise? Have I in anything transgressed the relations of life? For that Thou didst beget me, I thank Thee for that Thou hast given; for the time during which I have used the things that were Thine, it suffices me. Take them back and place them wherever Thou wilt! They were all Thine, and Thou gavest them me. If a man depart thus minded, is it not enough? What life is fairer or more noble, what end happier than his?'"

The above impressive thoughts are suggested by a review of the life of the late John Edwards, of this county, whose passing in the year 1901 was the occasion of such general and sincere mourning throughout this whole region. In making up a history of Putnam county it would be impossible to disregard the great part which Mr. Edwards took in the industrial and financial development of the commonwealth, a part the value of which to the community the present historian hardly dare estimate, for the service which

he gave was cumulative in its value, its effects being still widely apparent and growing in value, even as the enterprises which he promoted in his life are growing in extent. It therefore must be left to the future historian to attempt a proper estimate of the service which Mr. Edwards rendered to his community, the present reviewer contenting himself with the presentation here of those interesting biographical facts in the career of the late deceased which now have become a part of the common interest of this people.

On other pages of this volume, in the biographical sketches relating to his elder brother, William W. Edwards, also deceased, and his surviving brother, Joseph H. Edwards, the well-known banker at Leipsic, the genealogy of the Edwards family in this country is set out at informative length and it therefore will be sufficient to say here that the late John Edwards was born in Licking county, Ohio, January 27, 1850, a son of Thomas W. and Isabel Edwards, and when but eight years of age moved with his parents to Morrow county, in the same state, the family, in the year 1861, coming to Putnam county, where they settled on a farm in section 27, Van Buren township, and there John Edwards grew to manhood, receiving the training and acquiring the unusual physical vigor which later and during his life of active service stood him in such good stead.

Mr. Edwards' early manhood was spent on his father's farm, his larger business career not beginning until he was twenty-eight years of age. This was in 1878, in which year he purchased an interest in the stave manufacturing business of Henry and Jonas Lenhart. In 1886, the great possibilities of this business having then become apparent, the company was enlarged and Mr. Edwards, in association with his brother, William W. Edwards, I. N. Bushong, J. S. Lenhart and D. L. Critten, organized the Buckeye Stave Company, of which Joseph H. Edwards soon after became a member. The growth of this business was phenomenal, the energy and far-sighted business sagacity of the directors thereof soon making it one of the most extensive enterprises in this section of Ohio. Originally the company owned mills only at Leipsic, Continental and Columbus Grove, in this county, but in 1890 a mill was added at Pleasant Bend; in 1891 mills were located at Kalida and at Avis; in 1892 at Elm Center ~~and~~ at Mancelona, Michigan, and in 1894 at Gladstone, Michigan. The business grew by leaps and bounds, until, at the time of Mr. Edwards' death in 1901, the company owned twenty-three mills in Ohio and southern Michigan and was interested in five more in the northern peninsula of Michigan, the company at that time employing more than a thousand men and being recognized as the largest stave com-



pany in the world. In addition to its great manufacturing interests, the Buckeye Stave Company extensively engaged in the banking business. In 1887 the company purchased the bank at Leipsic and in 1891 established the bank at Continental, both in this county, the same being operated as private concerns, the stock controlled by the stockholders of the stave company, the Edwards connection later extending its banking interests to Toledo and Findlay, Ohio. In all his large and growing business activities Mr. Edwards gave himself unsparingly. From the very inception of this business he displayed an untiring zeal in the extension of the company's affairs, continually taking a most active and important part in the development of the business. His untimely death, on September 30, 1901, was a great blow to the company as well as a real shock to the community. Taken at the age of fifty-one, in the very prime of his life, it was difficult for many to reconcile themselves to what they regarded as his untimely departure, and he was sincerely mourned.

To the death of John Edwards the noble Epictetan concept which introduces this biography seems peculiarly applicable. He indeed had been true in all the relations of life, diligent in business, serving the Lord, and in his passing he left a memory which long shall be honored in the community which knew him so well. Though his life was one of commonplace beginnings, in its entirety it was far from commonplace. Endowed by nature with an excellent physique and a most gracious and engaging personality, he was a natural leader of men and his great business success hardly could have been otherwise. Greater, however, than his mere outward endowments were those fine traits of character which made him a strong and an upright man. Possessed of exceptional executive ability and far-sightedness in matters of business policy, together with a native will-power and a habit of constantly striving to do more and to do it better, he was successful in business far beyond the measure of the success of the average man. This success was not achieved, however, at the expense of character, but rather because of character. Of his honesty and sincerity much could be said, for they were essential characteristics with him. His kindness of heart and generosity of nature were traits that endeared him to all with whom he came in contact. This generosity found expression, not only in countless private benefactions of which the public had no information, for Mr. Edwards was not one to let his right hand know what his left was doing in such matters, but colleges, churches and many worthy institutions found him a liberal giver. He, indeed, gave a good account "for the time during which I have used the things

that were Thine," and it sufficed him. He regarded himself as a mere steward of the great worldly wealth which was given him and sought ever to govern his giving accordingly. In a quiet way he also was public-spirited and his influence was always exerted in behalf of such measures of public concern as promised the greatest advancement of the common weal, the weight of his counsels ever being on the side of the right. With quiet reticence, the charming modesty of the truly great, Mr. Edwards avoided all ostentation and, despite the power which his wealth inevitably gave him, was kindly and considerate to all, so that in his passing there was sincere mourning among all classes. Working out his own tranquillity, he thus had rendered that which is due to every relation of life.

On August 21, 1873, John Edwards was united in marriage to Mary E. Lenhart, who was born a mile west of Leipsic, in this county, the daughter of Henry S. and Adaline (Braucht) Lenhart, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania who moved to Hancock county, Ohio, in his young manhood and there married Adaline Braucht, who was born in that county, a member of one of the pioneer families. In 1854 the Lenharts came to this county and located on a farm west of the town of Leipsic, where Mrs. Lenhart died in 1869. Mr. Lenhart married a second time, taking as his wife Mrs. Anna (McConnell) Reed, and moved into Leipsic where his death occurred in 1904.

To John and Mary E. (Lenhart) Edwards were born four sons, Henry Clyde, Thomas Charles, William Earl and Oliver Pearl, the latter of whom are twins. Henry C. Edwards, who lives on an extensive ranch in Texas, married Bertha Hadsell and has one son, Max Hadsell, now sixteen years of age. Thomas C. Edwards, who represents his late father's interest in the bank at Leipsic, married Blanche Patterson, of Manchester, Ohio, to which union were born four children, John Leon, Thomas Robert, Mary Elizabeth and Janet Virginia. William E. Edwards is a teacher in the high school at Leipsic and Oliver P. Edwards, who is one of the leading directors of the celebrated Temco Electric Motor Company at Leipsic, married Josephine Niblick, of Decatur, Indiana, and has one daughter, Harriet.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwards reared their children in the faith of the Methodist church and were warmly interested in all the various beneficences of that organization. Mr. Edwards was one of the church's most zealous supporters and took an earnest part in its numerous lines of activity, giving not only liberally of money, but unsparingly of his time and the benefit of his great business ability, and the local congregation felt a sense of real bereavement upon his passage from this life.

## CHARLES H. JONES.

Among the worthy citizens of Columbus Grove, Putnam county, Ohio, whose residence here has contributed in no small degree to the prestige of the county, is Charles H. Jones, a well-known manufacturer. While laboring for his individual interests, he has not forgotten his obligations to the public, and his support of worthy measures and movements can always be depended upon. Although his life has been a busy one, his private affairs making heavy demands upon his time, he has never allowed it to interfere with his obligations as a citizen and a neighbor. Through long years of residence in this locality, he has ever been true to the trusts reposed in him, whether of a public or private nature. His reputation, in a business way, is unassailable. Possessing in a marked degree those sterling traits which command uniform confidence and regard, he is today honored by all who know him and numbered among the representative men of Putnam county.

Charles H. Jones was born at Troy, Ohio, May 24, 1861. He is a son of Jeremiah F. and Martha Jane (Hart) Jones. The Joneses were natives of Wales. John Jones was born in Virginia, and emigrated to Bath county, Kentucky, where he married a Miss Greene. To this union were born eleven children, Oliver, Goldsbury, John, Mary Ann, Elizabeth, George, Zechariah, Elihu, Artimesia, Isabella and Salem. George Jones was born in Bath county, Kentucky, June 9, 1808, and emigrated to Miami county, Ohio, about 1826. He was married in 1829 to Eleanor Gearhart, whose parents were originally natives of Germany. Henry Gerhart was born in Washington county, Maryland, about 1767, and married Barbara Young. They emigrated to Rockbridge county, West Virginia, and were the parents of the following children, John, William, Anna, Elizabeth, Eleanor, Henry, Lewis and Joseph. Eleanor was born in Rockbridge county, West Virginia, September 5, 1810, and emigrated with her parents to Miami county, Ohio, in 1816. She was married to George Jones in 1829. To this union five children were born, Jeremiah Fuson, Samantha Isabella, Simeon Gearhart, Anna Tabitha and Melyn Baker.

Jeremiah Fuson Jones was born on December 31, 1832. He married Martha Jane Hart, April 10, 1885. The Hart family were natives of New Jersey. John Hart, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, was one of the progenitors of the Hart family. Charles Hart was born in New Jersey, about 1770, and married a Miss Chamberlin. He emigrated with his family to Miami county, Ohio, about 1806. He and his wife were the parents of four children, Ellen, William Levi, Wilson and Henry.

William L. Hart was born in New Jersey, in 1810, and emigrated with his parents to Ohio. He was married to Margaret Julien about 1832, a lady of French extraction, of Miami county, Ohio. They were the parents of several children, Martha Jane, Justin Cyprian, John Lyman Beecher, Charles, Clarence Edgar and Alice, the last two named being twins.

Martha Jane Hart was born in Miami county, Ohio, May 22, 1834, and married Jeremiah Fuson Jones, as stated above. To this union four children were born, Ada Luella, Delia Doris, Charles H. and George Edgar.

Jeremiah Fuson Jones attended the country schools, until he reached the age of eighteen, and then undertook a course in Linden Hill Academy, at New Carlisle, Ohio, at that time, under the direction of Prof. Thomas Harrison, a graduate of Oxford University, England. Mr. Jones remained in this school for two years, and in the fall of 1853, began to teach school in Champaign county, Ohio, after which he taught one year in the schools of Miami county, Ohio, and continued teaching here until 1863, when he removed to Putnam county, where he was employed as superintendent of the public schools, at Delphos. Professor Jones held this position until 1867, when he moved to Anderson, Indiana, and became principal of the first ward school, of that city. He became superintendent of the Pendleton, Indiana, schools in January, 1868, and after one year in that place, returned to Delphos, Ohio, where he was superintendent of the schools for three years. Mr. Jones became superintendent of the schools at Columbus Grove, Ohio, in 1875, which position he filled for some years. Professor Jones retired from the educational field in 1883, having given thirty years of his life to that work. Before leaving the teaching profession in 1879, Mr. Jones had become interested in the manufacture of handles, a business in which he was to become associated with his sons, Charles H. and George E.

The factory at Columbus Grove specializes in second-growth hickory handles for tools and axes. All the handles are shaved and no turned handles are produced. The goods from this factory are sold all over the United States, chiefly on the Pacific coast. The firm name is now J. F. Jones' Sons, and is composed of C. H. Jones and George E. Jones. Charles H. Jones became a partner in 1884, and George E. Jones came into the firm about ten years later. About twenty years ago, J. F. Jones retired from the active management of the business and, since that time, has lived in Toledo, Ohio.

Charles H. Jones received his education in the schools at Columbus Grove, where he graduated. He has been engaged in the handle business since 1884. He is president of the Northern Ohio Cooperage & Lumber

Company, of Parkin, Arkansas, and is also engaged in numerous other business enterprises.

Charles H. Jones was married on June 23, 1887, to Alice Rebecca Wyman, who was born and reared at Sidney, Ohio, and who is a daughter of Judge N. R. and Mary Wyman. Her father's name was Nathan Russell Wyman, he was born in Vermont, in 1821, and moved to Ohio in 1840. Nathan Wyman was in business in Sidney, Ohio, for many years, and was prominent as a Democrat, having been probate judge for several terms. He was appointed superintendent of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Home at Xenia, Ohio. At the time of his death, August 29, 1886, he was manufacturing buggy spokes in Sidney.

Her mother was Mary Hale Wyman, born in New York state in 1822, and died in Sidney, Ohio, November 3, 1905, at the advanced age of eighty-three years. To this union two daughters have been born, Edith R. and Jeannette. Edith is a teacher of Latin and German in the Columbus Grove schools. She attended the Western College for Women, at Oxford, Ohio, and then attended Wooster University, where she graduated in 1910. She is also a graduate of the music department of the latter institution. Jeanette is a junior in the University of Wisconsin, at Madison, Wisconsin. She is a member of the university orchestra. Previously, she took one year at Wooster.

Charles H. Jones is a Republican, and served four years as postmaster of Columbus Grove, during President Harrison's administration. He is a prominent Mason, having attained to the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite, and is also a member of the Mystic Shrine. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, and takes an active interest in the work of that denomination, being a trustee of the church at this time, at Columbus Grove.

George Edgar Jones, the third member of the firm of J. F. Jones' Sons, was born March 24, 1872, at Delphos, Ohio. He grew to manhood at Columbus Grove, and after leaving the public schools, took a business course at Cincinnati, Ohio. He then entered business college, where he spent a short time at Chicago as an electrician. He became a member of the firm of J. F. Jones' Sons about 1894, and has devoted his time to this business since that date.

George Edgar Jones was married on May 22, 1894, to Grace Adelaide Dye, who was born at Columbus Grove, and who is a daughter of Willis Hance and Fannie Adelaide (Dann) Dye. Her father was a native of

Miami county, Ohio, and her mother a native of New Haven, Connecticut. Mrs. Jones' parents moved to Putnam county forty-one years ago, from Sidney, where they had lived one year after their marriage. They lived at Columbus Grove until the death of Mrs. Dye in 1899, after which Mr. Dye moved to Van Wert, Ohio, and engaged in the grocery business. From there he went to Florida, where he is now living. He was engaged in the grocery business during all the time he was living in Columbus Grove, except ten years, which were devoted to the interests of a milling business.

To Mr. and Mrs. George E. Jones three children have been born, Granville Dye, Robert Edgar and Jeremiah Franklin. Granville is now a junior at the University of Michigan, and prior to going there, was a student at the University of Wooster for one year. George E. Jones and family are active and earnest members of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Jones is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, having attained to the thirty-second degree, in that time-honored order. He is also a member of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

The Jones family is among the best known of Putnam county, they are leaders in the commercial, religious and social life of this section of Putnam county, and are well worthy of representation in the annals of their county.

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### JUDGE JULIUS SINCLAIR OGAN.

An attorney of Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, and one of the largest landowners of the county, is Judge Julius Sinclair Ogan, who has been a resident of Ottawa since the fall of 1882. He was born and reared in this county, and with the exception of the years which he spent in college, has lived his whole life within its precincts. After graduating from the classical course at Oberlin College, he graduated from the law department of Michigan University, and has been engaged in the active practice of his profession since 1878. He has never been an aspirant for public office, and has never held but one, being appointed judge of the common pleas court for a period of eleven months. He has preferred to give his time and attention to his private practice and to the management of his large landholdings in this county.

Julius S. Ogan, the son of Noah W. and Nancy (Custer) Ogan, was born in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, June 9, 1850. His father was born in Green county, Ohio, October 21, 1821, a son of Peter Ogan and

wife. Noah Ogan came to Putnam county about 1834 with his parents and located in Pleasant township and there he spent his youth and young manhood. After his marriage to Nancy Custer, a daughter of Daniel Custer and wife, Noah W. Ogan located on the farm next to that of his father, in Pleasant township, and lived there until the latter part of the fifties, when he moved to Columbus Grove, where he engaged in the grain and grocery business, remaining there until the opening of the Civil War. He enlisted, in September, 1861, and was made captain of Company K, Fourteenth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He served for about three years, and was discharged after the battle of Jonesboro, Georgia, on account of total disability, arising from the loss of his left arm. After the close of the war, Noah Ogan returned to Columbus Grove and engaged in various pursuits. He was engaged in the internal revenue service for some time, and also owned a farm near the village. He also practiced law in Columbus Grove, where he spent his declining years, his death occurring there on May 29, 1906. His first wife died about 1869, and some years later he married Emma Elliott. By his first marriage there were four children, two of whom died in infancy. The others were, Jennie, who became the wife of Daniel Henley, and lived in Cleveland, Ohio, until her death, and Julius S., whose history is here presented. By the second marriage of Noah W. Ogan were born two children, Servitus Wesley and Silas Jerome.

Julius S. Ogan grew to manhood, at Columbus Grove, and after receiving his elementary education in the schools of that village, he entered Oberlin College, graduating with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, in 1876. He at once entered the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, and graduated from the law course, in the spring of 1878. With this excellent training, it is no wonder that he was a successful lawyer, from the beginning. He began practicing at Columbus Grove immediately after his graduation, and he and his father were in partnership in that place, until 1882. In the fall of that year he moved to Ottawa and went in partnership with John M. Sheets, who has since become the attorney-general of Ohio. Mr. Sheets was elected common pleas judge in 1894, and at that time Mr. Ogan went into partnership with William H. Handy, who had just retired from the common pleas bench. Mr. Ogan and Mr. Handy continued in partnership until the latter part of 1905, when Mr. Ogan was appointed judge of the common pleas court. He held this office for about eleven months, and since then has practiced alone.

Mr. Ogan was married on December 25, 1882, to Estella Turner, who was born in Pleasant township, Putnam county, and is the daughter of Will-

iam M. and Martha Jane (Kuhn) Turner. Her grandfather was probate judge and died soon after he went out of office. Mr. Ogan and his wife are the parents of five children, four of whom are living: William Wesley dying at the age of six. The four children are Martha Jane, Myrtle, Mildred and Julius S. Myrtle is the wife of Dr. Joseph Shaw, of Coshocton, Ohio, while the other two children are still living with their parents. Julius is now attending the Ohio State University at Columbus. Mildred married J. F. Donart, who is in the real estate and loan business at Ottawa.

Mr. Ogan was appointed a member of the Putnam county Building Committee in 1909, which had general charge of the construction of the new court house. He remained on this committee until the court house was finally completed and contributed his full share to the laborious duties of this committee. He is president of the Ottawa Home and Savings Association and one of its largest stockholders. He owns nine hundred and thirty acres of land in Putnam county, from which he derives a very profitable income annually. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, being a member of the blue lodge, chapter and council.

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#### WILLIAM HENRY HANDY.

A distinguished citizen of Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, a veteran of the Civil War and a former judge of the common pleas court, William Henry Handy is eminently entitled to representation in the history of his county. He enlisted for service in the Civil War, when he was only sixteen years of age, and served until the fall of 1865. Studying law, after the close of the war, he was admitted to the bar in 1868, and has been in continuous practice since that time. He has been a resident of Ottawa since the spring of 1894, and has taken active part in the life of the county seat of Putnam county since that time.

William Henry Handy, an attorney, of Ottawa, was born on January 29, 1847, in Pike township, Fulton county, Ohio. He is a son of Michael and Mary A. (Bryan) Handy. Michael Handy was born at Danby, Tompkins county, New York, in December, 1812, and was a son of Michael Handy, Sr., an old resident of the same county. The name was originally spelled Hendee, and two brothers with that name came from Wales during the seventeenth century, one settling in Vermont and the other in Virginia. William H. Handy is a descendant of the Hendee who located in Vermont.



Michael Handy, the father of William Henry, was a school teacher in Canada, but during the period of turmoil in that country was driven out and went to Algonac, Michigan, where he was married on September 22, 1836, to Mary A. Bryan. She, too, had been a teacher in Canada, and had come to Michigan, and she, likewise, was born in Tompkins county, New York, where her husband was born. In the winter of 1839-40, Michael Handy and wife moved from Michigan to Fulton county, Ohio, and located on a farm. He taught school, farmed and also cobbled shoes. He was a very industrious man and taught school by day and pegged shoes by night, and shook with the ague between times. In addition to his teaching school, shoemaking and farming, he also operated a blacksmith shop, did some cabinet making, and at odd times studied law, and it can be seen that he was a man of great industry and of no inconsiderable intellectual ability. After Putnam county was set off as a separate county in 1850 Michael Handy moved to Ottokee, the new county seat, and followed the practice of law. He moved to Wauseon, Ohio, in 1871, the new county seat of Fulton county, and lived there the remainder of his life. He served as prosecuting attorney of Fulton county, and also as mayor of Wauseon. He died on March 6, 1885, his wife having passed away on April 1, 1880.

William Henry Handy was educated in the schools of Fulton county, Ohio. When he was only sixteen years of age, on June 16, 1863, Mr. Handy enlisted in Company H, Eighty-sixth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered in for the six months' service. After serving in Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia, he was discharged on February 10, 1864. He re-enlisted, April 15, of the same year, in Company H, Sixty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was in continuous service until September 10, 1865, when he was discharged as sergeant. He served in the campaigns against Petersburg and Richmond, and was at Appomattox when Lee surrendered.

Immediately after the close of the war, Mr. Handy returned home and began the study of law with his father. He was admitted to the practice of law, at Toledo, Ohio, in 1868, being twenty-one years of age at the time. He took up the practice of his profession with his father at Ottokee, the county seat of Fulton county, Ohio, and the father and son practiced together until the first of January, 1875. At that time Mr. Handy and Frank H. Hurd started the *Democratic Expositor*, and operated this newspaper until in March, 1877, when it was sold to J. C. Balmeier. Mr. Handy at once returned to the practice of law at Wauseon, to which place his father had moved, upon the change of the county seat of Fulton county. He was

in the continuous practice of his profession, in Wauseon, until February 10, 1885, when he assumed the duties of common pleas judge, to which office he had been appointed by Governor Hoadly. He filled this office by appointment and election, until May 10, 1894, a period of more than nine years, during which time he gave satisfactory service to the citizens of the three counties which composed his jurisdiction. At that time Putnam, Fulton and Henry counties combined in one judicial district. At the expiration of his term of office, in the spring of 1894, Mr. Handy moved to Ottawa, where he has since resided. He resumed the practice of his profession in partnership with A. S. Ogan, and the firm continued together until in December, 1899. At that time Mr. Unverferth became the partner of Mr. Handy.

Mr. Handy was married on October 16, 1869, to Isabelle J. Van Arsdale, who was born at Marseilles, Wyandot county, Ohio, and is a daughter of John and Marietta (Norton) Van Arsdale. Her parents moved to Ottokee about 1867, where she was living at the time of her marriage. Mr. Handy and his wife are the parents of three children, Harry L., Clive C. and May B. Harry married Maude Snyder, and is a locomotive engineer. Clive C. is an attorney in the legal department of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railway Company, at Cleveland. He married Herma Orth, of Wauseon, and has one son, William O. May B. is a stenographer, and makes her home in Ottawa with her parents.

Mr. Handy has long been a leading factor in Democratic politics, but he has never held any other position than that of judge of the common pleas court. He is a Free and Accepted Mason and has attained the Royal and Select Masters degree. He is a genial citizen, fond of a good joke, and well known, not only throughout Putnam county, but throughout this section of the state.

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#### WILLIAM T. COLE.

A veteran of the Civil War and a business man of Leipsic for a quarter of a century, who was the postmaster of that city, William T. Cole had been connected with the history of Putnam county since 1869. He enlisted in the Civil War when he was sixteen years of age, and after his enlistment had expired re-enlisted and served until the close of the war. He came to this county in 1869 and after farming for three years, located in Leipsic, where he has clerked in various stores and engaged in business for himself for more than twenty-five years. He had been the postmaster of Leipsic since 1907.

William T. Cole, the son of Alonzo and Sarah (Caldwell) Cole, was born in what was then called Frankleton, now West Columbus, Franklin county, Ohio, November 9, 1847. His father was born in Vermont and came to Columbus in childhood with his parents. His mother was born in Franklin county, Ohio, and was a daughter of William Caldwell and wife. His father was a life-long farmer.

Alonzo Cole was a school teacher in early life, and afterward engaged in farming. He moved to Delaware county, Ohio, while William T. was yet a child and remained there until 1871, when he moved to Putnam county. He bought a farm two miles east of Leipsic and farmed there until his declining years, when he retired and moved into Leipsic, where he died. Alonzo Cole and wife were the parents of nine children, Oscar, deceased; Charles, of Leipsic; Malissa, deceased, who was the wife of Justus Butler; Elisa, deceased, who was the wife of Mason Beardsley; Mary, the widow of George Whitman, who now lives with her daughter at Wheeling, West Virginia; William T., of Leipsic, deceased, and three children who died in infancy.

William T. Cole was reared in Delaware county, Ohio, and was living there at the time of the opening of the Civil War. He was large for his age and, although only sixteen, succeeded in becoming a member of Company H, One Hundred and Forty-fifth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He served with this company for four months around Washington, D. C., and was then discharged with his company. He returned home and went to school one winter and in the following March enlisted again in Company B, One Hundred and Ninety-sixth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was sent with his regiment to Winchester, Virginia, where the regiment was divided up and his company sent to Fort Federal Hill, near Baltimore, and he remained there the seven months which elapsed until the close of the war.

After the close of the Civil War, Mr. Cole returned to his home in Delaware county and worked on a farm and in a saw-mill. He married in 1867 and located in Delaware county, but in 1869, he and his brother, Oscar, and two brothers-in-law, Justus Butler and George Whitman, came to Putnam county where the four of them bought a half section of land, two miles east of Leipsic. Mr. Cole cleared his share of the land, but only lived on it for three years. He then moved to Leipsic and engaged in business, and until he became postmaster in 1907, he was either clerking in stores in the city, or engaged in business for himself. He was commissioned postmaster of Leipsic, December 16, 1907, and was re-appointed in 1912 for four more years.

Mr. Cole was married on December 29, 1867, to Olive Critchet, who was born in Licking county, Ohio, November 18, 1851, and is a daughter of Benjamin and Susan (Slutz) Critchet. Her father was a farmer and for forty years was a justice of the peace in Licking county. To this union were born four children, two dying in infancy, and two sons, Alvin M. and Charles Ray, who are still surviving. Alvin M. was born on December 23, 1874, and is now assistant postmaster of Leipsic. He married Nellie Schroeder. Charles R., born July 23, 1880, is now a clerk in the postoffice. Charles married Nettie Altekruise, of Ottawa, and they have two daughters, Margaret and Thelma.

Mr. Cole and his wife and son, Ray, attended the Disciples church. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias. He had long been identified with the Republican party, and has served as township treasurer and township assessor, rendering his fellow citizens faithful and efficient service in both capacities. William T. Cole died on February 27, 1915.

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#### WILLIAM LEWIS WERNER, M. D.

Although William Lewis Werner, M. D., has been a resident of Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio, since the spring of 1908, he has already built up a large practice in the city and surrounding community. He is a man of exceptional training, along medical lines, as is attested by the number of diplomas from many of the most eminent schools of medicine in the United States. Not only has Doctor Werner met with pronounced success as a physician, but he has also taken an active part in the civic life of his community.

William L. Werner, M. D., the son of Andrew and Catherine (Roth) Werner, was born at Eglon, Preston county, West Virginia, November 27, 1868. His father was born in Pennsylvania, and for many years engaged in the carpentering and contracting business and, in 1888, became the proprietor of a summer resort hotel at Eglon, West Virginia, which he managed until his wife's death, in 1906. A few years later he married again, and is now living a retired life at Kingwood, West Virginia. He and his wife are members of the English Lutheran church. Andrew Werner served during the Civil War in the Union army.

Doctor Werner was reared in Preston county, West Virginia, where as a youth he engaged in mercantile pursuits for a short time. Later, he engaged in the same business, at Gormanias, in Grant county, West Virginia,

for a time. Doctor Werner graduated from the Thomas (West Virginia) high school in 1896, and in the following year entered the Eclectic Medical Institute, at Cincinnati, Ohio, graduating from that institution, in April, 1901.

Doctor Werner really began his practice before he completed his college course. At the end of his second year, he became an assistant to Dr. B. Baker, at Thomas, West Virginia, and at the end of his third year, was admitted to the practice of his profession in West Virginia. After he graduated in 1901, he returned to Thomas, where he continued the practice of medicine, until 1907. He built up a good practice in that place and became president of the State Eclectic Medical Association and a member of the pension examining board of his county. He was also physician for the poor in the Fairfax and Davis districts, and president of the county board of health.

Doctor Werner was not satisfied to discontinue his medical studies, in 1901, and since that time has taken many post-graduate courses in various schools throughout the country. He has taken a post-graduate course in the Philadelphia Polyclinic and College for Graduates in Medicine, during which time he pursued a general course for graduate physicians, and later, a special course in diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat. He also took a special course in abdominal surgery and gynecology. He graduated from the National College of Electro-Therapeutics, in the subjects of electro-physics and electro-therapeutics. He took a general post-graduate course at Johns Hopkins University, in 1906, a school which ranks as the best post-graduate college in America, and it is evident, from Doctor Werner's post-graduate work, that he is eminently fitted for his chosen profession.

Doctor Werner permanently located at Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio, on May 5, 1908, where he has since continued his practice. It is needless to add that he has been successful from the beginning, and he finds his work constantly increasing. Since locating in Leipsic, he has taken an active part in the affairs of the community, and at the present time is a member of the school board. He is unusually well-equipped in his office for all kinds of medical work. He has a stock of drugs and does all of his prescription compounding. He has an oxyolene machine, which cost him nearly a thousand dollars; high frequency and X-ray machine, an electric vibrator, a fine equipment for optical examinations, a large and varied assortment of surgical instruments, and, in fact, everything which the twentieth-century physician and surgeon needs in general practice.

It is interesting to note that Doctor Werner was married before he was twenty-five years of age, and he attributes no small share of his wonderful

success to the inspiration of his wife. He was married on September 25, 1893, to Lucretia E. Chisholm, who was born in Garrett county, Maryland, in 1876, and is a daughter of Alexander and Emily Chisholm, of Scottish parentage. To this union have been born two children, Myrtle Lucile and William Lewis, Jr. Lucile married Fred C. Smith, of Jersey City, New Jersey.

Doctor Werner and his family are members of the Lutheran church and he holds his membership in the Knights of Pythias, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He has always taken a great interest in the state and national medical associations and makes it a point to keep in close touch with the latest developments in his profession. He has been particularly interested in the study of typhoid fever, its causes and treatment. While living in West Virginia, he was appointed, by the governor of the state, as delegate to the American Anti-Tuberculosis League, in 1907. Doctor Werner is still a young man and the success which has attended his efforts, thus far, indicates that he has a long and prosperous career before him.

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#### ALDINE J. WELTY.

It is one of the outstanding features of our government that it acknowledges no hereditary rank or title, no patent of nobility, save that of nature, leaving every man to fix his own rank and to become the artificer of his own fortune. Places of honor, rank and preferment are thus happily placed before every individual, high or low, rich or poor, to be striven for by all, but earned alone by perseverance and sterling worth, and are almost always sure to be filled by deserving men, or at least by those possessing the energy and talent essential to success in contest for public position. Aldine J. Welty is a conspicuous example of the successful, self-made American citizen, who is not only eminently deserving of the confidence reposed in him by his fellow citizens, but who also possesses the necessary energy and talent which fit him to discharge worthily the duties of the responsible place with which he has been charged. He is a man of vigorous mentality and strong mental fiber, and has found these qualities the chief factors in carving out a career above suspicion and reproach. He is an honor to the county, which he is so splendidly serving.

Aldine J. Welty, the well-known secretary of the Pandora Overall Company, and a young man of splendid business ability, was born January









*J. M. Kelly.*



27, 1883, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of John U. and Catherine (Thut) Welty, the former of whom is a native of Berne, Switzerland, born February 5, 1840, the son of John and Mary Ann (Gerber) Welty.

Aldine J. Welty grew up on the home farm and attended the old Mulberry district school until the age of seventeen, and then entered the Pandora high school from which he was graduated at the age of twenty-one, with the class of 1904. He worked for a short time at the carpenter's trade and, subsequently, took a trip west, visiting the World's Fair, in St. Louis, in 1904, Denver, and thence to eastern Washington and other points. He remained in this portion of the west for about nine months and during a part of this time, taught school. Upon his return home, he engaged in teaching for five years and, during vacations, employed his time as a clerk in the store of David Lichty at Pandora.

Mr. Welty was married on June 25, 1907, at the age of twenty-five, to Mary B. Amstutz, the daughter of Abraham M. and Catherine (Hilty) Amstutz, and to this union three children have been born, Clyde Lawrence, Arthur Laurel, who died at the age of three months, and Leland J.

After his marriage, Mr. Welty continued to teach for one year, when he became affiliated with the Pandora Overall Company, first as a salesman and, later, as secretary and joint manager. He has been very successful in his business relations thus far, and is the largest employer of labor in Putnam county. Mr. Welty also has control of two other factories, one at Celina, and the other at Zanesville, Ohio, being engaged in business similar to that at Pandora.

Aldine J. Welty's grandfather was born at Berne, Switzerland, in 1804. He was a farmer in Switzerland and was considered well-to-do, for his time. In addition to being a farmer, he was a mechanical genius and an able carpenter. He came to America in 1845, landing at New York City after forty-five days on the water. He came direct to Ohio and settled shortly afterwards in Riley township, Putnam county, where he entered land from the government. This farm comprised one hundred and sixty acres, which Mr. Welty proceeded to clear and drain. He built a log cabin and other buildings, and it was here that he reared his family. There were twelve children, four of whom were born in Switzerland, Fred, who resides in Oklahoma; John U., the father of Aldine J.; David; Annie, the wife of Rev. Zimmerly; John, who lives in Oregon; Christian; Abraham, who also lives in Oregon; Fannie, the deceased wife of Abraham Reusser, of Kansas; Amos; Peter, who also resides in Oregon; Samuel, and Anna, the wife of Peter R. Graber,

of Kansas. In addition to rearing this splendid family of children, all of whom grew to maturity, and all of whom, except one, married, John Welty, Sr., reared four orphan children. One of them married his youngest son, Samuel. John Welty was a close friend and associate of the well-known Rev. John Moser. It is related that so close was their fellowship, they had but one pocketbook. It is further stated that John Welty never took a man's note for money loaned, depending entirely upon the man's sense of honor. He was a man who was strictly religious, and was one of the founders of the Mennonite church. He was universally respected and well known as a good man and an upright citizen. He had, according to a recent counting, one hundred and one grandchildren living. From time to time he added to his holdings until he accumulated eight hundred and forty acres of land.

The original Welty homestead was located in the southeastern corner of Putnam county. It was here that John U. Welty was brought by his parents, when five years old. Here he attended the typical log cabin school, and it was here that he grew to manhood. This country, at that time, was heavily timbered, and almost totally under water. He remained with his people until he was twenty-seven years old, and at times worked for neighboring farmers. It is related that the greatest compensation he received at any time for his labors, was one hundred and five dollars, and a suit of clothes. At the age of twenty-seven, he was married to Catherine Thut, who was born in Wayne county, Ohio, September 18, 1842, the daughter of Peter I. and Elizabeth (Burkholder) Thut, also pioneers of Allen county. The Thut family had come from Switzerland, and comprised a number of deeply religious people. The Burkholder family was known for its thrift and economy.

After John U. Welty was married, he moved to a farm of his father's, two and one-half miles east of Pandora, which he later purchased of his father. Eight acres of this land was cleared and had a log cabin and barn upon it, and it was here that he reared his family of six children, all of whom are living, and where he is living at the present time. His children follow: Amos, who married Margaret Suter, has seven children and lives in Marinette, Wisconsin. Menno, who resides in Reedley, California, married Anna Schragg, and has three sons. Elias, who lives in Pandora, married Elizabeth Amstutz, and has six children. Elizabeth, who is the wife of Albert B. Hilty, of Riley township, has four children. William, who resides on the home place, married Ella Bracy, and has three children. Aldine J. is the subject of this sketch.

John U. Welty has been a very successful man. He has accumulated

considerable money and property aside from his farm holdings. He suffered a great misfortune, on May 19, 1900, when his wife passed away. For years she had been in delicate health. She was a kind and affectionate woman, and throughout her life had been a great sufferer, but bore it all uncomplainingly, and was the light and sunshine of her home.

Aldine J. Welty has been prominent in Democratic politics in Putnam county for many years. He is at present a central committeeman and was a prominent candidate for delegate to the national Democratic convention, at Baltimore, in 1912. In December, of that year, he was appointed on a committee of ten, from Ohio, to confer at Washington, D. C., with August Belmont and other Democratic leaders. He performed efficient service for his party on this committee. Mr. Welty is also one of the organizers of the town and township Democratic Club. In recognition of Mr. Welty's services to the Democratic party, President Wilson sent him his autographed photograph. During Bryan's campaign, in the fall of 1912, Mr. Welty was a member of the entertainment committee in his congressional district. For the past seven years Mr. Welty has been secretary of the Grace Mennonite church, of which the entire family are members. For two years he has been superintendent of the Sunday school. He is secretary of the lecture board of his own town and also vice-president of the school board.

Aldine J. Welty is a young man who has traveled extensively, from ocean to ocean, and has added to his already good education by both study and travel. He is always to be found behind any movement pertaining to the progress or betterment of the community. He is a man of the cleanest character and the very highest ideals. Possessed of splendid executive ability, as he is, and with his natural capacity for leadership, he is expected to become one of the leading factors of the Democratic party in the state of Ohio. He is eminently equipped for work of this character.

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W. M. GEORGE.

More and more, every year, the public is realizing the importance of maintaining a complete and accurate record of the proceedings of the county courts. Upon the accuracy and thoroughness of these local records much depends, as the vital interests of future generations may seriously hinge, some time, upon the preservation today of items of record that may, in themselves, seem trivial. The importance, therefore, of having some one in the

office of the clerk of the county courts who, by training and inclination, is given to thoroughness and studious attention to even the most minor details of his office, cannot be over estimated. That Putnam county, in recent years, has been fortunate in securing the valuable services of such a public servant in the office of the clerk of courts, is a matter of general congratulation in the county, it being felt that the records of these important courts are safe in the hands of the present incumbent. That the people of the county were satisfied with the selection they had made of such a public servant, was made plainly evident by the flattering re-election of W. M. George, at the last election to the office which, for one term, he had filled with such eminent satisfaction to the general public, particularly to those whose greater interest it is to know that the records of the county courts are being properly preserved, and it is a pleasure for the biographer here to present a brief and modest review of the life's history of the gentleman whose name forms the caption for this interesting biographical sketch.

W. M. George, clerk of the court of Putnam county, Ohio, and perhaps one of the best-known and most popular county officials that ever held office in the court house, was born on October 16, 1867, in Van Buren township, Putnam county, the son of John H. and Mary M. (French) George, the former of whom was a native of Germany, born on March 13, 1834, and who died on August 22, 1812, and the latter of whom was born, in Fairfield county, Ohio, January 22, 1834, and is still living at her home, in Belmore, this county.

John H. George, who, in his day, was one of the best-known farmers and business men, in Putnam county, was born in Kreis-Dill, Germany, the son of John and Mary (Kemper) George, parents of four children, and, in 1852, when eighteen years of age, came to America. He landed in New York and soon made his way to Ohio. He had learned wagon-making in his native land and for two years worked at this trade in Crawford county, Ohio. He went to Hancock county in the spring of 1854, where he worked at his trade, until 1862. In the meanwhile, in 1855, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary M. French, daughter of Grover French, a farmer of Irish descent, who died in Hancock county, Ohio, in 1857, his widow surviving until March, 1884, when she died at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George at the age of ninety years. Grover French and wife were the parents of seven children, John, a United Brethren minister; Elizabeth; Mrs. Lucinda Wiekham, of Belmore; George, a United Brethren minister, at Bentonville, Ohio; Reuben; Mary M. (Mrs. George) and Sarah. Of these only the mother of the subject of this sketch now survives.

To John H. and Mary M. (French) George were born seven children, Genevree, who married Peter Zeller, a carpenter; Sarah A., who married L. Swaninger, and was the mother of two children: Reuben, a well-known hardware merchant, of Belmore, this county; Elizabeth, who married William Cook, a Putnam county farmer; Grover, who died at the age of seventeen; William M., the immediate subject of this biographical sketch, now clerk of the courts of Putnam county, and Ida, who died at the age of seventeen. After his marriage, John H. George continued to work at his trade in Hancock county, as above stated, until the spring of 1862, when he came to Putnam county and bought a tract of eighty acres of land in the woods, on which he built a cabin. He had cleared about twenty acres and had placed the same under cultivation when he entered the Fifty-fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in 1864, as a substitute, and was assigned to the Army of the Tennessee. He was with General Sherman in his famous march to the sea, was in a number of severe skirmishes, and fought in the last two battles in which his regiment took part as the war was drawing to a close. He was mustered out, at Louisville, Kentucky, and, at Cleveland, Ohio, received his honorable discharge.

At the close of the war, Mr. George resumed the pursuits of peace, re-entering, with unimpaired energy and ambition, upon the interrupted task of clearing his little farm, in Putnam county. This same energy marked his course all through his life and he added to his farm holdings from time to time until he, presently, was the possessor of more than four hundred acres of well-improved land. In addition to managing his large agricultural interests in this county, Mr. George found time to engage in various other business enterprises, though occasionally he met with some reverses, especially in the way of paying off securities, his well-known generosity several times having caused him losses in this direction. Running a brewery in Ottawa, also, was an enterprise in which he met with a disastrous loss, by fire. In partnership with Captain Matthias in 1891, he opened a hardware store in Belmore, in which place he owned considerable residence property.

The elder George always was a Democrat and was active in the local campaigns of his party, his counsels ever having weight with the party managers in the county. He served two terms as justice of the peace, six years as county commissioner and, in 1880, was land appraiser. In addition to these public honors, he had filled several minor positions of public trust. He was a member of the United Presbyterian church, while his wife was a member of the Evangelical church. John H. George was a man of large influence in his neighborhood and his memory is cherished by many in the

community in which he so long and so usefully labored. In these labors he ever found a faithful helpmate in his devoted wife, and his widow, who still survives, is the object of the sincere affection of the entire Belmore neighborhood, all the people of which hold her in the very highest esteem.

With two such parents it could hardly have been otherwise with W. M. George than that he should grow up bulwarked by habits of study and industry. Reared upon the farm, under the careful training of his father, he received full instruction in the rudiments of profitable agriculture and, at the same time acquired studious habit, so that the course in the public schools served as a stimulant to further scholastic ambitions. Finishing the course in the local schools, he attended college, at Ada, Ohio, and, in 1888, began teaching school. For two years he did work in this line in the district schools of Van Buren township, his services in this capacity proving so satisfactory to the school authorities, that he was elevated to the position of superintendent of the schools at Belmore. Here he served with much satisfaction to the patrons of the school for a period of three years, making an excellent reputation for himself in school circles in the county. He also, about this time, was interested, with his father, in the management of a store at Belmore. During President Cleveland's second administration, he was postmaster at Belmore, being at the same time engaged in the grocery business there. Shortly after the close of this term of service, Mr. George decided to take up farming as a definite life's work and, following out this design, engaged in active farm work in the Belmore neighborhood, in which he met with marked success. At the same time, his acquaintance over the county was growing and his earnest and useful activities, in local Democratic campaigns, began to gain the recognition of the party managers, who presently found in him one of the most aggressive political forces in the county. It was fitting, therefore, that in the campaign of 1909, Mr. George should receive the nomination of his party for the office of clerk of the court. His well-recognized qualifications for the proper discharge of the duties of this office, made his election a foregone conclusion, and he took office in 1911. The capable manner in which he handled the affairs of this important office insured his re-nomination, to succeed himself, and he was re-elected, in 1912, his term of office being due to expire, in August, 1915.

In September, 1890, Mr. George was united marriage with Miss Lida Fisher, who was born near Monroeville, Indiana, June 13, 1870, the daughter of Andrew J. and Nancy (Baker) Fisher. The Fishers had moved from Indiana to Ohio, in the year 1874, and for many years, thereafter, lived in Belmore, later moving to Paulding county, where Mrs. Fisher died. Mr.



Fisher remarried and now lives in Van Wert. Lida Fisher grew up at Belmore and, after finishing her school course, became a teacher in the public schools of her home town, being also a teacher of music, both vocal and instrumental. In the work of the public schools, she and Mr. George, who was superintendent of the Belmore schools, for some time, were closely associated, and this association developed into a romance which led to the happy marriage.

To William M. and Lida (Fisher) George seven children have been born, John H., who married Laura Feutermacher, and lives on a farm in Van Buren township, Putnam county; Nanna C. married Julian C. Brown and lives near Hamler, in Marion township, Henry county, Ohio; Bernice, Bernard J., Delia, Noel and Dale are still at home and make merry the fire-side of their devoted parents, the George home, in Belmore, being the center of many social gaities.

Mr. and Mrs. George are members of the Evangelical church and take a warm interest in the various beneficences of that religious organization, as well as being active participants in such local movements as have for their object the advancement of the best interests of the community at large, and are very properly regarded as among the leaders in all good works in this county. Mr. George is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in the affairs of which he takes considerable interest.

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#### CHARLES FRANCIS HOLTZHAUER.

A rapid rise in the educational world has marked the career of Charles Francis Holtzhauer, who, although a young man in years, is now the superintendent of the Ottawa public schools. Graduating from one of the many excellent colleges of Ohio in 1907, he has been teaching in high schools of the state since that time, and is now serving his second year as superintendent of the schools of Ottawa.

Charles Francis Holzhauser, the son of Henry and Clarissa (Wunderly) Holzhauser, was born near Huron, Erie county, Ohio, November 26, 1881. His father was born near Amherst, Lorain county, Ohio, a son of John Holzhauser, who came from Hesse-Cassel, Germany. Clarissa Wunderly, the mother of Mr. Holzhauser, was born in Erie county, Ohio, and her mother was a native of Hesse-Cassel, Germany. Henry Holzhauser is now living on the farm in Erie county, Ohio, where his son, Charles F., was born, and has made his home on this farm for many years.

Charles F. Holzhauer was reared on his father's farm in Erie county, Ohio, and received his elementary education in the country schools. After graduating from the common schools he entered the Huron high school and graduated in the class of 1903. He at once entered Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware, Ohio, graduating with the degree of Bachelor of Science, in the spring of 1907. In the fall of that year he began teaching, as assistant principal of the high school at Cadiz, Ohio, and remained in that school for four years. He came to Ottawa in 1911 as principal of the high school and after holding this position for three years, was elected in the summer of 1914 to the superintendency of the Ottawa schools. This is sufficient indication that his work in the schools of Ottawa has been satisfactory in every way. It is not only a tribute to his efficiency as an instructor, but also to his high character and sterling worth as a citizen.

Mr. Holzhauer was married in 1908 to Bessie Simmons, who was born at Ocoola, Crawford county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Ira H. and Amanda J. (Doty) Simmons. Mr. Holzhauer met his wife while they were both students at Delaware. To this union have been born two children, John Henry, who is now six years of age, and Mary Elizabeth, who is one year old.

Mr. Holzhauer and his wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Ottawa. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and is now serving as senior deacon of the Ottawa lodge.

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#### HENRY CLIFTON RUHL, M. D.

For more than twenty years, Henry Clifton Ruhl, M. D., has been practicing his profession in Leipsic, Ohio. Born and reared in Morrow county, Ohio, he went to Michigan with his father, in 1880, and completed his elementary education in that state. Later, he became a student at the Northern Normal University, at Ada, Ohio, and then entered the teaching profession. He finally decided to become a physician, and, with this intention, took a medical course of three years, and has been in the active practice of medicine since 1894. He located in Leipsic immediately after his graduation from the medical college, and has met with excellent success in the pursuit of his life work. He has been active in the civic life of Leipsic and is a public-spirited citizen, who can always be depended upon to support all measures for the general welfare of the community at large.

Henry Clifton Ruhl, M. D., the son of Adam Henry and Louisa



HENRY C. RUHL, M. D.



(Jacobs) Ruhl, was born in Morrow county, Ohio, December 4, 1864. His father was born in 1828, in Berlin, Germany, and came, when a lad, with his parents to Pennsylvania. Adam Henry Ruhl was a son of Jacob Henry and Emma Ruhl, and, when about seventeen years of age, came with his parents from Pennsylvania to Morrow county, Ohio, where Jacob H. Ruhl and wife lived the remainder of their lives, dying at the ages of eighty-three and eighty-seven years, respectively. The Jacobs family also came from Berlin, Germany, and located in Pennsylvania, living at New Freedom, in York county. Louisa Jacobs' father died in that county, lacking ten days of being one hundred years old. His widow was past ninety-four years of age at the time of her death.

Adam Henry Ruhl was twice married. His first wife, Louisa Jacobs, died in 1870, and, in 1873, he married again. He removed with his family to Gratiot county, Michigan, in 1880, and there spent the remainder of his life. He was a millwright by trade, and followed that occupation until his second marriage, after which time he engaged in farming.

Henry C. Ruhl, M. D., was sixteen years of age when his father went from Morrow county, Ohio, to Michigan, and lived in the latter state three years. He became a student in the Northern Ohio Normal University in 1883, and later, taught in the public schools for three years. In the fall of 1891, he entered Pulte Homeopathic Medical College, of Cincinnati, and graduated from that institution in the spring of 1894. On May 4, of that year, he began the practice of his profession, at Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio, where he has since made his home. He has built up a large practice, and at the same time has been prominent in the civic affairs of the city.

Doctor Ruhl was married in July, 1894, to Anna Moore, who was born near Columbus Grove, Putnam county, and is a daughter of Samuel and Maria (Kiefer) Moore. Her parents were both natives of Pennsylvania, and were married in Richland county, Ohio. From that county the Moores came to Putnam county, and located on a farm near Columbus Grove, where Mr. Moore died at the age of seventy-six. His widow is now living at the home of Doctor Ruhl, and is past eighty years of age. Doctor Ruhl and his wife have one daughter, Neva J., who is now a college student at Delaware, Ohio.

Doctor Ruhl is active in the Democratic party in his county, and has always taken unusual interest in its public affairs. He was elected mayor of Leipsic in 1898. He was elected to the same office in the fall of 1911. Doctor Ruhl was a member of the school board, of Leipsic, for nine years,

and it was during his incumbency the present high school building was erected. The doctor owns an excellent farm, near Leipsic, over which he has general supervision. The family are stanch members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally, he is a member of the order of Free and Accepted Masons and has attained to all the degrees up to and including the Knights Templar. He has been a member of the Knights of Pythias since 1888. Doctor Ruhl is a genial and whole-souled man, and has a large circle of friends and acquaintances throughout the county.

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### WILLIAM W. DIBBLE.

Prominently identified with the educational interests of the community in which he lived, William W. Dibble has been engaged in public school work in Putnam county, Ohio, for several years. Starting in before reaching his majority, as a teacher, he taught in order to secure money to pay his way through college, and for the past quarter of a century has been spending each winter in the school room. He has taught for several years in his home county, both in the common and the high schools, and since 1914 has been district superintendent of Liberty, Van Buren and Blanchard townships.

William W. Dibble, the son of William E. and Martha Jane (Taylor) Dibble, was born on May 17, 1866, at Waterville, Lucas county, Ohio. His father's history appears elsewhere in this volume, and the reader is referred to it for information concerning the Dibble family.

William W. Dibble was reared at Waterville, Ohio, until he was sixteen years of age, at which time his parents moved to the southern part of Henry county, Ohio, where his father bought a tract of timbered land, and young William took his full share in the arduous task of clearing the land and preparing it for cultivation. At that time there were many wild turkeys in the woods and small game was abundant.

William W. Dibble attended the high schools at Elmore, Ottawa county, Ohio, and Lindsay, Sandusky county, Ohio, when he began to teach. After teaching one term he entered the Northwestern Ohio University at Ada, and for the next three years interspersed his college education with teaching in the public schools. He also took a business course in shorthand and book-keeping at the Tri-State Business College at Toledo, Ohio, and worked in an office for one year, when he returned to teaching. He taught school for

several years in Henry and Putnam counties, before beginning teaching in the high school at Leipsic in 1909. He continued there until the spring of 1913, when he became superintendent of the schools of Liberty and Van Buren townships, and, in 1914, Blanchard township was added to his territory, and the title was changed to that of district superintendent of schools, with complete jurisdiction over Liberty, Van Buren and Blanchard townships. He is a practical school man, who understands every phase of public school teaching and is regarded as one of the best men of the profession in Putnam county.

Mr. Dibble was married in 1892 to Mary Alice Wise, who was born in Hancock county, Ohio, and is a daughter of John F. and Martha J. (Schwab) Wise. Both of her parents were born and reared in Hancock county, and now live in Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio.

Mr. Dibble and his wife are loyal workers in the Methodist Episcopal church, where Mr. Dibble has been the superintendent of the Sunday school for the past five years. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias.

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#### PETER A. MISSLER.

A man of marked administrative ability is Peter A. Missler, the present mayor of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. He has held this responsible position since 1908, and in 1914 was re-elected for two more years, a fact which speaks well for his worth as a citizen, and his ability as an executor. He has been a life-long farmer and has lived at Glandorf since 1897.

Peter A. Missler, the son of Joseph and Susannah (Willman) Missler, was born in Huron county, Ohio, in 1876. His father was a native of Germany, born in 1830, and, when a boy of sixteen, came to America alone, and located in Huron county, Ohio, where he worked as a cooper. He made barrels for wine and other liquids and built up a business which necessitated the employment of eight or ten men. While living in Huron county, he married Susannah Willman, who was a native of Stark county, Ohio, and died in Huron county in 1885. In the meantime Joseph Missler had sent to Germany for his parents, Andrew and Elizabeth Missler, they coming to this country and living the remainder of their lives in Huron county.

After the death of his wife, Joseph Missler moved to Mercer county, Ohio, and lived there with his son, Joseph, Jr., until his death on August 8, 1914, at the age of eighty-four years. He and his wife were the parents

of eight children, three of whom are deceased, Clara dying in infancy, Katherine dying in 1883, after reaching maturity, and Margaret, who died at the age of nineteen. The five living children are as follow: Joseph, of Mercer county, Ohio; Peter A., of Glandorf; John A., of Glandorf; Mary, a teacher in Auglaize county, Ohio, and Elizabeth, a teacher at Sedalia, Missouri.

Peter A. Missler was eight years of age when his mother died, and he then went with his father to Mercer county, and attended the college at Rensselaer, for two years. Peter A. Missler came to Glandorf in 1897 to engage in farming and has made this his life work. He has a good farm near Glandorf, where he engaged in diversified farming with a result which speaks well for his efforts.

Mr. Missler is a stanch Democrat, and is now a member of the Democratic central committee, of Putnam county. He was elected mayor of Glandorf in 1908, and has been re-elected every two years since that time. He is a stockholder and director in the Glandorf German Building & Loan Association.

Peter Missler was married in 1902 to Emma Catherine Ellerbrock, who was born in Glandorf, and is a daughter of John William and Jennie (Uten-dorf) Ellerbrock, a sketch of whose parents may be found elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Missler are the parents of five children living and one deceased, Mary, Joseph, Edward, Otmar, Angeline and Paul, who died on August 9, 1913, at the age of two years. Mr. Missler and his family are loyal members of the Catholic church, and are deeply interested in its welfare.

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#### HARRY ALLEN NEISWANDER, M. D.

There is no class to whom greater gratitude is due, from the world at large, than the self-sacrificing, sympathetic, noble-minded men whose life work is the alleviation of suffering and administering comfort to the afflicted—those men who, in many cases, are responsible for lengthening the span of human existence. There is no standard by which their beneficent influence can be measured. Their helpfulness is limited only by the extent of their knowledge and skill, while their power goes hand in hand with the wonderful laws of nature that spring from the very source of life itself. Some one has aptly said "He serves God best, who serves humanity most." Among the physicians and surgeons of Putnam county, who have risen to well-deserved eminence in their chosen field of endeavor, and who are serv-



ing humanity with their talents and their training, is Harry Allen Neiswander, M. D., of Pandora, Putnam county, Ohio. Doctor Neiswander is a man who has proved himself to be broad-minded and conscientious in the sphere to which his life and energies have been devoted. He is possessed of a profound knowledge of the science of his profession, which has won for him a leading place among the distinguished medical men of his day and generation in Putnam county.

Harry Allen Neiswander, M. D., was born on September 26, 1881, in Van Buren township, Hancock county, Ohio. He is the son of Joshua N. and Susan (Blosser) Neiswander. Joshua N. Neiswander, the son of Michael and Fanny (Geiger) Neiswander, was born on January 4, 1857, in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio. Richland township was formerly a part of Putnam county. Michael Neiswander, the son of Michael Neiswander, Sr., was born on the Atlantic ocean en route to New York. Michael Neiswander, Sr., whose wife was Anna Ernst, was born in Berne, Switzerland, and came to America, as one of the early settlers of Allen county, Ohio, at the age of twenty-two, the year in which Michael Neiswander, Jr., was born. Michael Neiswander, Sr., settled first in Tuscarawas county, Ohio. Subsequently, he followed the Riley creek, looking for a suitable location and homestead, which he found upon arriving at a spring in what is now Richland township, Allen county, Ohio. Michael Neiswander, Sr., entered land from the government and passed through all of the pioneer experiences common to his day and generation. He was accustomed to drive to Sandusky, more than sixty miles away, to mill and to buy provisions. A barrel of flour cost fifteen dollars in those days. On one occasion his son Daniel was driving home through the timber in a sleigh, when a pack of wolves got on his trail. Hearing their vicious snarls and howls, he understood they were coming after him. Lashing his horses into a run, he drove for home at top speed. Arriving at the barn, he hastily unhitched his horses, put them into the stable, locked the door and ran for the house with the wolves almost at his heels. Once in the house he was safe from harm. When he awoke the next morning, the wolves had disappeared, but he found the marks of their claws on the door. On one occasion when Michael Neiswander, Sr., had been to mill in Sandusky, he happened to cross a bridge over a stream which had nearly overflowed. As the horses stepped on the bridge, Michael observed that the planks were floating and, whipping up his horses, hurried them across. So nearly afloat was the bridge that just as the wheels of his wagon passed over each plank, it floated away. Michael Neiswander, Sr., was the father of three sons, Daniel, Michael, Jr., and John. Daniel located in Putnam county and became a prosperous

farmer. He was the father of four daughters and one son. John moved to Missouri in an early day, where he reared a large family and prospered. Michael, Jr., grew to manhood on the old homestead and reared a family of four sons and three daughters, all of whom are now living except one. At one time he was very well-to-do, owning two hundred and forty acres of land besides other property. Joshua Neiswander, the father of Dr. Harry A., was the fourth child born to Michael Neiswander, Jr. He was born on the homestead in Richland township. So far as is known, Michael, Jr., had no educational advantages, except what he received from his parents. His father, however, was a well-informed man for his time, judging by the records and diaries he left, and must have been able to give his son some valuable instructions. Joshua Neiswander attended school in the old log school house, and grew to manhood under conditions much better than those which his father confronted, but still very largely of a primitive nature. Log cabins at that time were still the rule, although they had begun to be replaced by more commodious farm dwellings in the older settled communities.

Joshua Neiswander remained with his parents until of age, after which, for about three years, he worked on a farm and spent a few months in Canada. After his return from Canada, he was married, at the age of twenty-four, to Susan Blosser, the daughter of Christian and Catherine (Thut) Blosser. The Blosser family history is to be found in the sketch of Mrs. Isaac Hilty. After his marriage, Joshua Neiswander located on a farm in Van Buren township, Hancock county, which he cleared and on which he built his home. He has always done general farming and has been very successful. Lately he has specialized in raising and feeding hogs, cattle and horses for the market. Of late years, he has specialized in thoroughbred Duroc hogs. He is of a mechanical turn of mind and learned the carpenter's trade, which he follows at odd times. He is a Democrat and for a great many years was township trustee. He is an ardent supporter of the Reformed Mennonite church. His wife is a member of the American Mennonite church. Doctor Neiswander's mother, Susan Blosser, is the daughter of Christian Blosser. He was a school teacher and met his death in a peculiar way. On his way home from school one day, he chanced to meet a young woman and stopped to converse with her. It later developed that she had smallpox. Christian Blosser caught the disease and died, as did also his father. Christian Blosser was the father of five children, of whom Doctor Neiswander's mother was next to the youngest.

Joshua N. and Susan Neiswander were the parents of eleven children,

three of whom died in infancy, Harry A., the subject of this sketch; Irvin, who died in infancy; Lois, the wife of Meville Bushong, of Newstark, Ohio, who has two children, Elton and Merl; William, who died in infancy; Leo, a student in the Homeopathical Medical College at Columbus, Ohio, who married Lettie Fried and has one daughter, Alice; Estella, who is a school teacher; Claud, who is principal of the high school at Arlington, Ohio; Edgar, Byron, Ralph and Una, all of whom are at home.

Harry A. Neiswander, M. D., received his early education in the common schools of Van Buren township. He attended the summer normal schools and also the normal school at Angola for one summer. After this, he completed his Bachelor of Science work at Ohio Northern University, graduating in 1907. Subsequently he took a position as assistant principal of the New Holland (Ohio) high school and in a few months became principal of that institution.

Doctor Neiswander entered the Cleveland Homeopathical Medical College in 1908, which institution later became affiliated with the Ohio State University. He graduated with the class of 1912. In his senior year, Doctor Neiswander was president of the Hahnemann Medical Society, a student organization. Before graduation, he saw active work with one of Cleveland's prominent practitioners. In this way, he was specially fitted for his chosen profession. He located at Pandora in the fall of 1912, where he has since built a large and growing practice.

Doctor Neiswander was married on December 25, 1907, to Rosella Spacht, of Van Buren township. She was formerly a student at Adrian College, Adrian, Michigan, and also the Ohio Northern University at Ada. She is the daughter of Jesse B. and Mary (Stonehill) Spacht, both of whom belong to pioneer families of Hancock county. Mrs. Neiswander is the eldest of four children, the others are William, who died at the age of twenty-nine; Verla and Irena, who are at home.

Doctor Neiswander is a Democrat. He is health officer of Riley township and Pandora. He is a member of the leading medical societies, including the Ohio State Medical Society, the Ohio State Homeopathic Medical Society and the Putnam County Medical Society. Dr. Neiswander and wife are active members of the Methodist Protestant church. They have been the parents of two sons, Allen and Harold.

Doctor Neiswander is a progressive young physician, who has had all of the advantages of the latest information in medicine. He has built up a large practice in the community and a practice which he so very much deserves because of his splendid equipment and his natural inclination toward his life profession.

## GEORGE HENRY MERSMAN.

A substantial business man of Glandorf, Putnam County, Ohio, is George Henry Mersman, who was born on the farm where his elevator is now located. His parents, both of whom were natives of Germany, were early settlers in this county, and the Mersman family have been active in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community, for many years. Mr. Mersman started to work in the woolen-mill in Glandorf, when a young man, and for more than a quarter of a century was interested in this business, while at the same time he carried on general farming. He has been interested in the elevator business in Glandorf since 1892, though he is still devoting some of his attention to farming.

George Henry Mersman, the son of Henry and Mary E. (Recker) Mersman, was born on February 18, 1851, at Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. His father was born in Glandorf, Germany, and came to this county when a young man, where he worked on the Ohio canal, which was being built through this section of the state. Later, he was a partner with Mr. Myers, in the saw-mill business, and still later was engaged in the same business with Mr. Drerup. In addition to operating the saw-mill, he had a grist-mill which was run by steam power, the grinding being done with an old-fashioned burr stone. Mr. Mersman continued the saw and grist-mill business, in Glandorf, as long as he lived. In addition to his mills he operated a general store, packed and shipped pork and was a business man, interested in many ventures. He and his brother, Barney, were in partnership in the pork-packing business. Mary E. Recker, the wife of Henry Mersman, was born in Hanover, Germany, and was a daughter of Nicholas Henry Recker and wife. The mother died in the old country, and her father married again. When Mary E. Recker was a girl of five years, her father and family came to America and located at Fort Wayne, Indiana, but lived there only a short time, when they moved to Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, where her father farmed during the remainder of his life.

George Henry Mersman lived at home until he was grown. As a young man, he worked in the woolen mills at Glandorf, and continued there for twenty-eight years. He began his mill work by operating a carding machine, and later became a spinner. At the same time that he was working in the woolen mills, he was engaged in farming. Mr. Mersman built an elevator at Glandorf, in 1892, just after the railroad was built through the village, and leased it out for one year. Since that time he has had active charge of the



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE H. MEERSMAN.



elevator himself, and has built up a large and lucrative business in the buying and shipping of grain.

Mr. Mersman was married on April 21, 1875, to Anna M. Halker, who was born in Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, and is the daughter of William and Louise (Vogeding) Halker. Her parents were both natives of Germany, came to Glandorf, Ohio, early in its history, and located in the midst of a dense forest. Her father was a life-long farmer. Mr. and Mrs. Mersman were the parents of three children, two of whom, Louise and John, died in infancy. Anna E. is the wife of Anthony Kohls. Mr. Kohls was born at Glandorf and reared at New Cleveland, this county. He is a son of Tony and Theresa (Klinkhammer) Kohls. Mr. and Mrs. Kohls have four children, Anna, Linus, Clarence and Louisa. Mr. Kohls and Mr. Mersman are operating this business together.

Mr. Mersman has given his hearty support to the Democratic party, and has been a member of the Glandorf council ever since the village was incorporated, with the exception of two years. He and his wife are loyal members of St. John's Catholic church, at Glandorf. He has a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, twenty-five acres of which is good timber land, and is now doing a general farming business. Since purchasing this tract of farm land, Mr. Mersman has installed many changes and made numerous improvements.

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#### PETER D. BIXEL, M. D.

It is not always easy to discover and define the hidden forces that have moved a life of ceaseless activity and large professional success. Little more can be done than to note their manifestations in the career of the person under consideration. The life of the physician and public-spirited man of affairs, whose name appears above, affords a striking example of well-defined purpose—his ability to make that purpose subserve, not only his own ends, but the good of his fellow men, as well. Peter D. Bixel, M. D., has long held prestige in the calling that requires for its basis strong mentality and intellectual attainments of a high order, supplemented by rigid professional training and a thorough mastery of technical knowledge with the skill to apply the same, without which one cannot hope to arise above mediocrity. In his chosen field of endeavor Doctor Bixel has achieved a notable success, which has been duly recognized and appreciated throughout the section of the state in which he lives. In addition to his long and creditable career,

in one of the most useful and exacting professions, he has proved an honorable member of the body politic, and in every relation of life has never fallen below the dignity of true manhood or in any way resorted to the methods which might invite censure.

Peter D. Bixel, M. D., was born on April 21, 1865, in Allen county, Ohio. He is the son of Abraham and Magdalene (Schumacher) Bixel. Abraham Bixel was born on May 14, 1843, in Holmes county, Ohio, and was the son of Peter and Fannie (Diller) Bixel. Peter Bixel and wife were both natives of Berne, Switzerland. Peter Bixel was born on January 1, 1795, and came to America, April 29, 1824, arriving July 21, 1824. He came, first, to Wayne county, and on August 2, 1824, went to Holmes county, where he married Fannie Diller. They had sixteen children, of whom Fannie was the second eldest and the eldest living child. The family came from Holmes to Allen county, near Bluffton, when the eldest child was eighteen or nineteen years of age.

In Holmes county, Peter Bixel entered land from the government, and here he remained for about fifteen years, selling out, in 1846, and coming to Allen county, settling one mile north of Bluffton. He was a very progressive farmer and a hard worker. He owned, at one time, nearly one thousand acres of land. He was a fine type of the American citizen and very liberal. He had a fine Christian character and was one of the first members of the Mennonite church, in his community. He lived all his life on the old homestead, in Allen county. Fannie Diller, his wife, was a native of Switzerland and married Peter Bixel, in Wayne county, Ohio.

Abraham Bixel moved, with his parents, to Allen county when but three years of age. It was there that he received his early education in the typical log-cabin school house. Although his educational advantages were limited, he became a self-made man, and being a careful reader, greatly advanced himself by home study. When he was twenty-one years of age, May 5, 1864, he was married to Magdalene Schumacher, the daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Suter) Schumacher. After his marriage, he remained on the old homestead, until 1878, when he sold out and moved to the old Peter Schumacher farm, in Richland township, Allen county. This he sold, in 1903, and then retired, moving to Pandora, where he now lives. Abraham Bixel was one of sixteen children. His wife, Magdalene, was also one of sixteen children, a remarkable coincidence. Abraham Bixel was a very successful farmer and owned more than two hundred acres. He and his wife were the parents of twelve children, Dr. Peter D.; David C.; Sarah, who died at the age of three; Noah, Elizabeth, John, who is dean of the



Conservatory of Music, at Ottawa, Kansas; Samuel, Mary, Lydia, Adam, Menno and Susan.

Doctor Bixel spent his boyhood days on the old home place, in Allen county. Here he received his early education, completing his course in the common school at the age of twenty-one. He then went to work in a store, at Bluffton, and remained here for six years. When twenty-seven years of age he and Benjamin Schumacher bought the firm of C. S. Day & Company, dealers in groceries, queensware, where they also became the proprietors of a bakery. They stayed in this business for two years, when the firm became Bixel & Welty. This firm continued for two years longer and then the store was sold.

Peter D. Bixel then took a preparatory course in medicine at the University of Cincinnati. The next year he entered the Eclectic Medical College, at Cincinnati, graduating in 1901, where he stood next to the head of his class in surgery. After graduating, he located at Bluffton, Ohio, and went into partnership with Doctor Sutter.

This partnership continued for nine months, when Doctor Bixel moved to Pandora, where he now resides and where he has established a large and growing practice. In addition to his university preparatory course, he has pursued his studies and kept up to the demands of the profession by attending lectures at Chicago and Cincinnati. Doctor Bixel is a member of the National Eclectic Medical Association and the Ohio State Eclectic Medical Association, the Northwestern Eclectic Medical Association and the American Medical Association, the Ohio State Alopathic Medical Association and the Northwestern Ohio Alopathic Medical Association, as well as the Putnam County Medical Association.

He is ex-president of the Northwestern Ohio Eclectic Medical Association and twice secretary of that association. Likewise he is ex-secretary of the Putnam County Medical Association.

Peter D. Bixel, M. D., was married on December 19, 1889, to Elizabeth Steiner, daughter of Christian and Magdalene Lugibihl Steiner, the family history of whom is to be found in the sketch of Peter Steiner, contained elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Bixel's parents were pioneers in Putnam county. Mrs. Bixel was born on November 1, 1867, and reared one mile east of Pandora. She received her education in the common schools of Riley township.

To Doctor and Mrs. Bixel have been born three children, Stella has been a student at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and graduated in the class of 1915. She is a graduate of the Pandora high school. Munson Rus-

sell graduated from Pandora high school and is now a student at Bluffton College. Madeline is a student in high school.

Peter D. Bixel, M. D., has been a life-long Republican. For six years he was health officer of Riley township. He was also a member of the board of education for eight years, and president of the board for four years. Doctor Bixel and family are members of the Great Mennonite church, of which he is an ardent supporter.

The subject of this sketch is one of Putnam county's most progressive professional men and stands high in the community in a professional and personal way. He is a most careful and conscientious physician and likewise a public-spirited citizen, taking an active part in everything that might result in the betterment of the community. Altogether, Doctor Bixel is a very valuable citizen to the county where he has spent practically all his life.

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#### PETER P. STEINER.

Specific mention is made in the following paragraphs of one of the worthy citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, and one who has figured in the growth and development of the financial and commercial interests of this favored section, whose interests have been identified with its progress, contributing, in a definite measure, in his particular spheres of action to the well-being of the community in which he resides and to the advancement of its normal and legitimate growth. Earnest purpose of tireless energy, combined with mature judgment and every-day common sense, have been among his most prominent characteristics. He has merited the respect and esteem which are accorded him by all with whom he has had social or business relations.

Peter P. Steiner was born on December 28, 1845, in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio, the son of Peter and Barbara (Schumacher) Steiner, the former born in Switzerland, on a farm, October 7, 1811, died in Richland township, Allen county, three miles west of Bluffton, August 22, 1870, at the age of fifty-nine years. Peter Steiner, Sr., was the son of Christian Steiner and wife, the latter's maiden name being Luginbihl. Christian Steiner was born in 1770, in Switzerland, and died on his farm in Richland township, Allen county, in January, 1846. In addition to being a farmer in Switzerland, he was a preacher, and followed this calling after settling in America in 1836. He and his wife had six children when they

came to America, as follow: Christian, John, Ulrich, Peter, Barbara and Elizabeth. Christian, the eldest son, had preceded the rest of the family by two years. He settled in Wayne county and, like his father, was a minister. Another brother, Ulrich, also took up the ministry, and all were faithful members of the Mennonite church. Christian Steiner, Sr., died ten years after coming to America.

Peter Steiner was the fourth child of his parents. He was married at the age of twenty-five, just before coming to America, to Barbara Schuhmacher, who was the daughter of Christian and Barbara Schuhmacher. Both she and her father were natives of Basel, Switzerland. Her parents and four children came to America at the same time the Steiner family came. The children of this family were Peter, who was a minister; John, Christian and Barbara, the mother of Peter P., the subject of this sketch. Peter Steiner, and the remainder of the family, settled in what is now Richland township, Allen county, which was then a part of Putnam county. They entered land from the government, for which they paid one dollar an acre. The Steiners had been considered well-to-do in Switzerland, were prosperous farmers and had lived on the same farm, "The Buchwald," for seven successive generations. This was a large farm, probably consisting of two or three hundred acres.

Christian Schuhmacher, the father of Peter P. Steiner's mother, was a miller in Switzerland and also a wine merchant. After entering his land from the government, built a log cabin and proceeded to clear his land. It is related that he used to haul grain to mill at Sandusky, Tiffin and Maumee, forty or fifty miles away, with an ox team. He could only haul about fifteen or twenty bushels at a time, on account of the bad condition of the roads, and it usually took a week. At all times he would have to carry an ax, with which to cut his way through fallen trees. It was on the farm that he established, by dint of energy and push, that his eleven children were reared, all of whom grew to man and womanhood. The children were as follow: Catherine, deceased, wife of Christian Gratz; Christian; Barbara, deceased, wife of Peter D. Diller; Mary Ann, deceased, wife of Chris Hilty; Elizabeth; David, who died at the age of twenty-one; Peter P.; Mattie, who died at the age of twenty; Benjamin died at the age of fifty-five, in 1895; Fannie, who died single, and Susan, deceased, wife of Benjamin Hilty. They are now all deceased with the exception of Christian, Elizabeth and Peter P. The mother of these children died about 1885. His father, at the time of his death, owned four hundred and twenty-six acres of land and was known as a good farmer. He was a Democrat and a very earnest supporter of the Mennonite church.

It was on the old homestead farm in Richland township, Allen county, that Peter P. Steiner spent his boyhood days. Here he attended the district schools and, of course, helped his father on the farm, until twenty-two years of age.

Peter P. Steiner was married on March 7, 1867, and remained on the home place until the following fall, when he moved to Riley township, Putnam county, on a place owned by his father. This farm of one hundred and twenty acres, he later purchased from his father. It was in a virgin state and Mr. Steiner, like his father, cleared the land and built his cabin. He felled the first tree on the site of his new home on October 28, 1867. He cleared two acres and on December 13, with his bride, moved to his new home. He had previously dug a well. His wife was Elizabeth Luginbihll, the daughter of Christian Luginbihll and wife. Mrs. Steiner was a native of Riley township, Putnam county, and her parents were natives of Switzerland. She died on September 20, 1905. She was a splendid Christian woman, a devoted wife and loving mother. She was the mother of four children, Helen, the wife of P. D. Amstutz, the postmaster of Pandora, who have three children, R. Mendelssohn, Melvina and Hilda W.; Martha, the twin sister of Helen, who died in infancy; Noah, who married Elizabeth Luginbihll, and has five children, Melvin, Eulalia, William, Waldo and Earl D., and Mary, who died at the age of twenty-seven. She attended Findlay College and was a teacher of music. She was a fine Christian young woman, very popular and highly esteemed in the community.

After clearing up his farm, Peter P. Steiner continued to farm until 1898, when he moved to Pandora. The following spring he entered the milling business, the firm name being Steiner, Hilty & Schuhmacher. The firm name now is Steiner, Hilty & Kempf, Mr. Kempf being the bookkeeper. Mr. Steiner has continued in the milling business up to the present time. He was elected president of the firm and has since continued to hold this office. In addition to his other holdings, Mr. Steiner has accumulated considerable town property. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Banking Company.

Mr. Steiner is a Democrat. He is one of the main supports of the Mennonite church and has been a deacon in that church for the past forty years. He is one of the most substantial citizens of Riley township and Pandora. He is influential and highly respected and is a fine type of the present-day Christian gentleman. Mr. Steiner deserves great credit for his many accomplishments. He has toiled early and late, but he has the satisfaction of knowing now that he has always toiled to good purpose.

## FRED H. ELLERBROCK.

The Ellerbrock family have been residents of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, since 1836. In that year the grandfather of Fred H. Ellerbrock came from Germany and located in this county, when practically the entire county was covered with a dense forest. In fact, it was only a few years after the county was organized that the Ellerbrock family became permanent residents. They have taken an active part in the life of this community, from earliest pioneer times, and the various members of this family are highly respected in the community where they live.

Fred H. Ellerbrock, the son of Fred and Lizette (Wischmeyer) Ellerbrock, was born September 25, 1882, at Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. His father was born, in Ottawa township, in this county, near Glandorf, and was a son of Herman Ellerbrock, who was born in Hanover, Germany, and came to America, about 1836, where at once located on the farm near Glandorf, in Putnam county. There he spent the remainder of his life.

Fred Ellerbrock, Sr., was reared on his father's farm, at Glandorf, and, upon reaching his maturity, married Lizette Wischmeyer. She was born at Hunteberg, Oznabruck, Germany, and was a daughter of Henry Wischmeyer and wife. She came here in her girlhood days with her sister, while her father later came from the Fatherland and spent his declining years in Glandorf. Fred Ellerbrock, Sr., was a life-long farmer, first locating in Pleasant township and later, near Glandorf. He was twice married, his first wife being Mary Borgelt, who died, leaving two children, William and Mary. To his second marriage were born six children, three sons and three daughters, Henry; Lucy, the wife of Henry Karkhoff; Fred, of Glandorf; Bernard; Lena Frances, living, and Louis, who died in early childhood. The father of these children died in July, 1913. His widow is now living near Glandorf.

Fred H. Ellerbrock was reared on his father's farm near Glandorf, and educated in the public schools of his home neighborhood. He, in partnership with Charles B. Ellerbrook, in 1910, bought the saloon at Glandorf, which they have since operated in partnership, conducting the business in a clean and orderly manner.

Mr. Ellerbrock was married in May, 1908, to Dora Kaufman, who was born, at New Cleveland, Ohio, and is the daughter of William and Catherine (Schmenk) Kaufman. Her father was a life-long farmer, at New Cleveland. Mr. Ellerbrock and his wife are the parents of three children: Marie, Norbert and Alma.

Mr. Ellerbrock and his family are members of the Catholic church, at Glandorf, and he belongs to the St. John's and Ss. Peter and Paul's Aid societies.

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### WARREN F. REED, M. D.

The late Warren F. Reed, M. D., was a resident of Putnam county, Ohio, from the spring of 1867 until the spring of 1913. For many years he was one of the leading practitioners of the county, and was also interested in the political life of the county as well. During the twenty years preceding his death, he was president of the Bank of Ottawa, although he continued to practice his profession until the time of his decease. When a young man he enlisted for service in the Civil War, and made a notable record in that terrible conflict. Doctor Reed was a well-known man, of broad character, and most kindly disposition. He was unassuming in manner, devoted to his profession and faithful in the discharge of every duty which came before him.

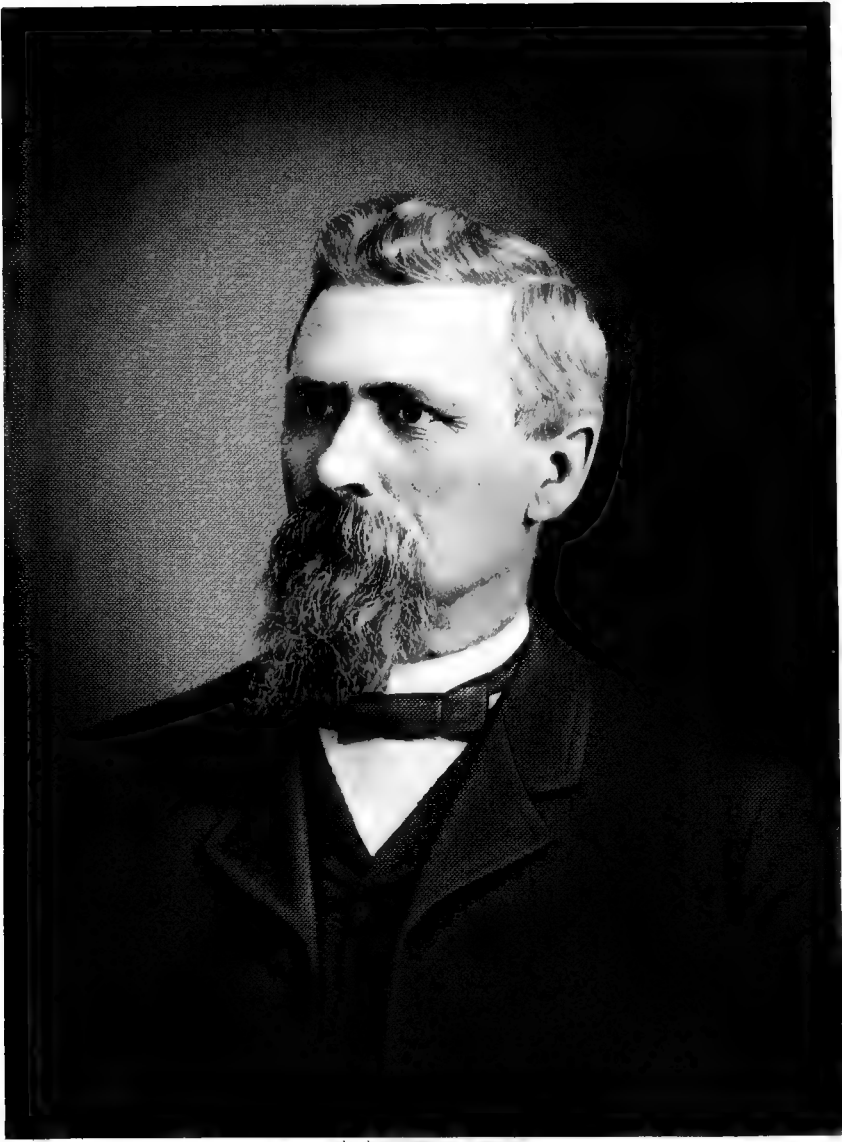
The late Warren F. Reed was born near Lima, Ohio, November 22, 1839, and died at his home, in Ottawa, March 28, 1913. He was a son of Manuel and Elizabeth (O'Harr) Reed. His father was a native of Trumbull county, Ohio, and became a resident of Allen county, Ohio, as early as 1834, purchasing a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of government land in that year, near Lima. He married Elizabeth O'Harr, a daughter of Arthur O'Harr, one of the pioneers of Franklin county, Ohio. Manuel Reed was a farmer and carpenter, was a man of quiet and unostentatious manner and exerted a beneficial influence in the community where he resided. His ancestors were pioneers of Pennsylvania. The O'Harrs were descended from an old Scottish family, a number of representatives of which settled in Pennsylvania early in the history of that state.

Doctor Reed was educated in the district schools of Allen county and later graduated from the Lima high school. When a young man, he began the study of medicine, under Doctor Harper, of Lima, and after returning from the war, he completed his medical education in the University of Michigan, from which institution he graduated in 1866. He then entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons, of New York City, and, in the spring of 1867, began the practice of his profession in the town of Kalida, Putnam county, Ohio, where he lived until 1890. In that year he moved to Ottawa, having been elected to the office of county auditor on the Republican ticket.









W. F. Reed



His election was a striking tribute to his worth, as a citizen, in view of the fact that the county was very strongly Democratic. Doctor Reed was appointed assignee of the Ottawa Exchange Bank in 1894, and in July of that year, in partnership with I. H. Kahle, of Glandorf, and W. H. Harper, Jr., of Lima, he reorganized the Bank of Ottawa, and was president of that financial institution until his death, in the spring of 1913.

In addition to his business and official duties, Doctor Reed continued the practice of medicine during all these years. He was a member of the Northwestern Medical Society, the Putnam County Medical Society and Ohio State Medical Society. He was a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and had attained to the chapter, council and commandery degrees.

Doctor Reed was married in 1873, to Clyde Gordon, the daughter of Judge John H. and Mrs. Jane C. (Perry) Gordon. To this union four children were born, Mary, Nellie, Gordon, who died at the age of seventeen, and one child, who died in infancy.

John H. Gordon, the father of Mrs. Reed, was a native of Pennsylvania, and was reared to manhood in that state. He was largely a self-educated man, and came to Ohio early in his manhood and settled in Butler county, where he married Mrs. Jane C. Perry. To this union five daughters were born, Ruth, deceased, who was the wife of Edward Dunn, of Indianapolis, Indiana; Rebecca J., the wife of W. C. G. Krauss, of Ottawa, Ohio; Zella, the wife of George D. Kinder, of Ottawa; Clyde, the wife of Doctor Reed, and Mrs. Minerva Hornaday, now the matron of the Soldiers' Home, at Xenia, Ohio. Mrs. Gordon, by a previous marriage, had one daughter, Mary P., who became the wife of James Johnson, of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Mr. Gordon taught school, in Ohio, for several years, after coming to this state, and made an excellent record as an instructor. He was especially proficient in mathematics and made this branch of study a specialty. He served three terms as recorder of Butler county, Ohio, and also engaged in farming and in the livery business at Hamilton, Ohio. In 1856 Mr. Gordon moved his family to Putnam county, and for some years thereafter was engaged in the manufacture of lumber, but later, turned his attention to contracting, building and the making of stone roads. He was elected to the office of probate judge for two terms, served two terms as mayor of Ottawa, and was a justice of the peace for several years. In this latter office, Mr. Gordon always used a reasonable effort to effect an amicable adjustment of difficulties without bringing the cause in dispute to trial. He had a deep dislike for litigation, on account of the bad feelings which were usually

aroused by a trial. A man of strictest morality and integrity, he enjoyed the confidence of the community to the fullest extent, and would often suffer a wrong rather than commit one. While serving as probate judge, he frequently refused to collect fees, feeling that the people were too poor to be taxed for his services. Liberal to a fault, his charities were widely dispensed, and in consequence he never succeeded in accumulating great wealth. Mr. Gordon was a stanch Democrat, but during the Civil War, he was an ardent Union man and did much to induce the young men of his county to volunteer. By reason of an accident, in which he lost an arm when a young man, he was rendered ineligible for military duty. His life was one of high aims and in his death Putnam county lost one of its most prominent and valued citizens.

Doctor Reed was a member of the One Hundred and Fifty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and although he had many narrow escapes, he returned home after the close of the war without injury or without impairment of his health. He was a keen business man and an executive of marked ability. He was president of the building commission, who had charge of the erection of the present Putnam county court house, and rendered valuable and efficient service while the seat of justice was being erected. It may be assumed that Doctor Reed was a man of unusual attainments, by reason of the fact that he took such an active part in the life of his community. His career, extending over nearly half a century, was fraught with great good to his county, and at his death he was sincerely mourned by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

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### THOMAS HARVEY ROWER.

The Rower family came to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1849, at which time Frederick Rower, the great-grandfather of Thomas Harvey Rower, came to this country from Saxony and located in Franklin county, at which place he died. For more than sixty years this family has been identified with the history of the county, and has seen it emerge from its primitive state to the prosperous county which it is today. Thomas H. Rower was a school teacher in his younger days, then was cashier of the First National Bank of Leipsic for a time, but since 1907 has been a partner of W. F. Stevenson in general insurance, bonds, loans and real estate.

Thomas Harvey Rower, the son of Lewis A. and Mary E. (Begg).

Rower, was born January 9, 1878, in Jackson township, three and one-half miles west of Kalida, along the Big Auglaize river. His father, who was the son of John and Nancy Rower, was born in 1851, on the same farm. John Rower was the son of Frederick Rower, who was born in Dresden, Saxony, in 1779, and came to America in 1799, and located in Pennsylvania, later crossing the mountains and locating on a farm in Franklin county, Ohio, in 1812, where he died in 1826. His wife, Elizabeth (Long) Rower, died in 1846. He was one of the first pioneer settlers to make his homecoming in 1849 and literally carved and drained a home out of the swampy forests. The pioneer experiences of this sterling German-American citizen would make interesting reading.

Lewis A. Rower was only a child when his father died at the age of thirty-two. His mother later married John Rager, and moved to Franklin county, and there Lewis A. grew to manhood and married Mary E. Begg, February 11, 1875. She was born in Franklin county, a daughter of John and Mary Begg, who came from Cumbernauld, Scotland, in 1844, and located in Franklin county. The Begg family lived in Franklin county most of their lives, but about the time of the war lived for two years in Putnam county, after which they returned to Franklin county, and later to Allen and Putnam counties, where they spent the remainder of their days. After Lewis A. Rower was married he moved back to the old Rower home in Putnam county, west of Kalida, and farmed there until his death in 1886. He died at the age of thirty-five, the same age as his father at the time of the latter's death. Lewis A. Rower left his widow with five children, John, who died in infancy; Thomas H., of Leipsic; Mary Janet, of Kalida, Ohio; Lewis Edson, of Kalida, Ohio; Philip A., of Kalida, Ohio; Mabel A., the wife of Rudolph Raabe, of Ft. Jennings, Ohio. The widow remained on the farm until 1913, when she moved into Kalida, where she now makes her home.

Thomas H. Rower was reared on the farm and remained there until he was twenty years of age. He became a student in the Western Ohio Normal School at Middle Point, Ohio, in the fall of 1898, and remained there until he graduated in the spring of 1900. The following year he taught in the public schools of Leipsic and for the next four years was the superintendent of the schools at Hamler, Ohio. After the close of his last year in Hamler, in the spring of 1905, he returned to Leipsic and became the cashier of the First National Bank. He remained with this bank until its voluntary liquidation two years later, and then formed a partnership with Walter S. Stevenson in the insurance, stocks, bonds, loans and real

estate business. This house has built up an extensive business and is now one of the substantial firms of the city.

Mr. Rower was married on June 15, 1904, to Annetta Wynn, who was born in Germantown, Pennsylvania, and is a daughter of Isaac and Margaret (Wrightly) Wynn. Both Mrs. Rower's parents were members of old and highly-respected Philadelphia families, her father being a cousin of ex-Postmaster-General Robert Wynn. Members of family of Mr. and Mrs. Wynn were, Ernest, deceased; Ervin, a resident of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Annetta, wife of the subject of this sketch.

Mr. Wynn died when Mrs. Rower was an infant and her mother later married Rev. W. H. Hyatt, a Presbyterian minister, and has since lived in a number of places, as his work took him from one city to another. Mrs. Rower is a fine musician and has taught instrumental music. Mr. and Mrs. Rower are the parents of four children, Margaret Eloise, Mary Annette, Helen Lucile and Alfred Wynn.

Mr. Rower is independent in politics, and takes an intelligent interest in the current issues of the day. He has been president of the Leipsic board of education since the beginning of 1914. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and he and his wife are active workers in the Presbyterian church, in which he has been an elder for several years.

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### HOMER R. DAY.

One of the most illustrious, as well as one of the oldest, families in America, is the Day family, of which the gentleman whose name is noted above, a popular merchant, at Columbus Grove, Putnam county, Ohio, is an honorable representative of the present generation. To go into all the various ramifications of the Day family in America, or to set out in detail the most salient points in the lives of the numerous representatives of this family, who have rendered distinguished service to their country, would require a book larger, perhaps, than this volume and the biographer, keeping within the proper limitations prescribed in the compilation of a work of this character, must content himself with a mere side light on the beginnings of the family which will serve as an introduction to the present generation, and then connect himself to a brief biography of the gentleman whose name appears as the caption of this interesting sketch, the ninth in direct line of descent from Robert Day, the first of his name to settle in America.

Those who are interested in the ampler history of the Day family are referred to the Day Book, one of the most monumental and painstaking works of genealogical research ever printed in this country and which contains the lineage of the Days far back beyond the time the first of the name in this country reached America, early in the seventeenth century.

The Day Book traces the present family of Days, in Putnam county, of which Homer R. Day, merchant, at Columbus Grove, is perhaps the best-known local representative, back to the year 1680, in which year Robert Day arrived in Boston, from England, one of a party of earnest colonists, numbering one hundred or more, who came to this country, under the leadership of the Reverend Hooker, to find new homes. This party penetrated the wilderness and founded the town of Hartford, Connecticut, Robert Day taking no small part in the strenuous labors of these colonists. The majority of the Days, in the earlier history, were ministers of the Gospel or farmers, and in whatever relation they served their fellow men, they did their duty as they saw it. The Rev. Jeremiah Day, sixth in line from Robert Day, was president of Yale College, from 1817 to 1846, and George Day, who wrote the Day Book, so well known to all genealogists, was also president of Yale for many years. The late Alfred H. Day, whose name for so many years was literally a household word in the neighborhood of Columbus Grove, by reason of his long connection with the mercantile interests of that city, was the eighth in line from the Robert Day above mentioned; his father, the venerated Reverend Alvin Day, second, having been a son of the Reverend Jeremiah Day, referred to above as president of Yale for so long a period. There are many biographies of the Reverend Alvin Day extant, to any one of which the reader, curious for further information, is referred. Suffice it here to say that he was born in Wilberham, Massachusetts, married Anna Maria Stebbins and died December 3, 1860, his widow surviving, until September 7, 1867.

To the Reverend Alvin and Anna Maria (Stebbins) Day thirteen children were born, of whom the late Alfred H. Day, father of Homer R., was the seventh in order of birth, the others being Harrison C., Nelson, Gilford, Lovina, Sandford, George, Olive Maria, Mary Azubah, Alvira, Jane Eliza, Walter S. and Alvin C.

Alfred H. Day, who for many years was a merchant, at Columbus Grove, and whose death on March 24, 1911, was so sincerely mourned throughout this whole section, was born at Wilberham, Massachusetts, January 25, 1840, the son of the Reverend Alvin and Anna Maria (Stebbins) Day, the former of whom was one of the most distinguished Baptist ministers of his day.

Alfred attended school at Wilberham until he was sixteen years of age, when he decided to come west. Starting out alone, he proceeded to Rockport, Illinois, where he lived for a period of two years, attending school during the winter and making his time further serviceable by clerking in a local store where he no doubt laid the foundation for his later mercantile success. He then moved to Lima, Ohio, where he was for some time engaged in a clerical capacity in a grain warehouse and, in 1861, came to Putnam county, locating in Columbus Grove, where for two years he engaged in the grain business with such success that, in 1863, he was able to purchase the general merchandise store of J. P. Jones, consisting mostly of groceries, which was located in a frame building on the west side of the street. This was his first start in the dry-goods business, in which he later became so successful. About the year 1872, Mr. Day moved this frame structure and erected in its stead a fine brick building, in which he conducted his store with so much success that his business outgrew its quarters and it became necessary to enlarge the store capacity. To this end, in 1883, he enlarged the old store and erected the fine building which still stands a monument to his energy, the store which he so long conducted now being under the management of his son. There was a reason for the success which attended the efforts of the elder Day. He was a good business man, level-headed and cool, possessing excellent judgment and had a rare sense of values. In addition to this, he was always on duty, being at the store early and late, and was a master of detail. Mr. Day erected, in 1873 in Columbus Grove, one of the finest residences in the town, which is still standing, a home of unusual beauty and good taste. In the same year he built the Grove House, now known as the Witt Hotel, in Columbus Grove, and also for some time held an interest in the grain elevator in his home town. He watched his business grow with pride and, in 1893, he took into the store, as a partner, his son, Homer R. Day, who has since been continuously active in the direction of the business, and who, since his father's retirement, in 1906, has been the sole owner. About five years after his retirement, at the age of seventy-two, Mr. Day passed on to his reward and many there were in this county who mourned his demise.

Alfred H. Day was a loveable man, of excellent habits, unassuming and plain-spoken, of sterling character, dependable in all his relations in life and a power in his community, his death being a distinct loss to the town. Not only was he unusually active in the mercantile life of Columbus Grove, but he paid close attention to the community's civic interests and was always interested in any movement which had, as its object, the advancement of the



public welfare. He was a Republican and took a good citizen's part in political affairs, his wise counsel and sound judgment being of much force in the deliberations of the local party managers. For sixteen years he was treasurer of Pleasant township, and for years was also corporation treasurer of Columbus Grove, besides being a member of the town council and the school board, in all these duties giving the same studious attention to the public's business as he gave to his own personal affairs. He was a devoted member of the Presbyterian church, as are all the members of his family, being prompt in his attendance upon the services of the church and a liberal contributor to the various beneficences of the same.

Alfred H. Day was united in marriage, in 1865, to Ada L. Pease, who was born in Monson, Massachusetts, and who is now living with her children. To this union three children were born, Rose E., who married Dr. Frank H. Pugh and lives at Bryan, Ohio; Clyde, who died in infancy, and Homer R., the immediate subject of this interesting biographical sketch.

Homer R. Day, who was born at Columbus Grove, April 9, 1873, son of Alfred H. and Ada L. (Pease) Day, received his youthful education in the schools of his native town and, upon completing the course there, took a supplemental course in the business college, at Poughkeepsie, New York, where he received his business training and from which institution he was graduated with the class of 1893, after which he returned home and entered business with his father, who took him as a partner that year. This mutually pleasant and profitable arrangement continued until the year 1906, when the elder Day retired, turning all interests over to his son, since which time the latter has been sole owner and has continued the wise policies of his father with such careful direction that the business is continuing to grow in the most satisfactory fashion. In addition to his commercial interests, Mr. Day finds time to give his share of attention to public affairs, in which he naturally takes a deep interest. He has been a member of the board of public affairs for the past seven years, served for two terms as treasurer of the township and also for two terms as a member of the school board. He is also a director of the Exchange Bank of Columbus Grove. As was his father, he is a Republican, and his counsels carry weight with the party managers in Putnam county, by reason of his sound judgment and excellent executive ability. He has made himself a most valuable power for good in the community and commands the highest respect of all throughout the entire section of the county where his name and that of his father, before him, are so well known and so highly regarded. A man of unquestionable honesty, he believes in the application of sound principles to the conduct of both

public and private business and is an earnest advocate of all measures which look to the betterment of the social, moral or civic conditions of the community in which he lives.

Homer R. Day was united in marriage on April 25, 1897, to Miss Winifred Rice, who was born at Ada, Ohio, the daughter of John F. and Jennie (Hemphill) Rice, members of old families of that section of the state, and to this union four children have been born, Aline, born on March 27, 1898; Jeannette, born on January 7, 1900; Mildred, born on March 15, 1902, and Fred R., born on June 3, 1905, and who died on December 15, 1907. The three youngsters, in the pleasant Day home, keep things lively there and are the delight of the lives of their devoted parents. Mr. and Mrs. Day are members of the Presbyterian church and take an active part in the beneficences of that organization, as well as being devoted in their attention to all movements that seek to better mankind.

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#### MRS. ADDIE LILLIAN (HALL) ZAHREND.

A well-known woman, of Putnam county, Ohio, who was born and reared in Allen county, is Mrs. Addie Lillian (Hall) Zahrend. Her husband was a prominent business man of this county for many years, and was engaged in the lumber business, at Leipsic, at the time of his death, in the spring of 1905. He was a man of high character, a thorough Christian gentleman, a leader in all reform movements. Since his death, Mrs. Zahrend has been devoting her time and attention to the rearing of the children who were left in her care. She is a woman of refinement and culture, deeply devoted to her domestic life.

Mrs. Addie Lillian (Hall) Zahrend was born at Gilboa, Putnam county, Ohio, December 22, 1861. She is a daughter of John F. and Nancy Jane (Hoagland) Hall.

Mrs. Zahrend spent her early childhood at Gilboa and, when five years of age, moved with her parents to Bluffton, Allen county, Ohio, where she was educated and lived until her marriage. She was married, June 25, 1885, to John Carl Zahrend, and to this union six children were born, Martha Marie, Robert Franklin, Eugene Hall, John Carroll, Howard Lewis and Charlotte Lucile. Martha Marie was married, February 15, 1910, to Charles M. Harris, of Leipsic, Ohio, and now lives in Gore county, Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Harris have three sons, Harold, Eugene and Charles. Robert



JOHN C. ZAHREND.



Franklin married Margaret Cotter, of Philadelphia, October 16, 1909, and now lives in Wayne, Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia. Eugene Hall was married, December 17, 1913, to Elizabeth Doyle, of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, where he now resides. Eugene and his wife have one daughter, Dorothy Elizabeth. The three younger children, John, Howard and Charlotte, are still living with their mother and attending the public schools of Leipsic.

John Carl Zahrend was born in Mecklenburg Schwerin, Germany, June 22, 1858, and was the son of Herman and Minnie (Henning) Zahrend. Herman Zahrend was engaged in farming in Germany and in 1870, came to America and located at Liberty Center, Henry county. Upon coming to this country, Herman Zahrend engaged in railroad work and later resumed farming near Napoleon, Henry County, Ohio. A few years later he removed to a farm east of Napoleon and there lived the remainder of his life. He was a member of the Dutch Reformed church and a stanch Republican in politics. Herman Zahrend and wife were the parents of seven children, John, who became the husband of Addie Lillian Hall; Henry, who died at the age of twenty; a daughter, who died in her childhood; Frederick, of Napoleon, Ohio, who married Ella Fahringer, and has two sons, Earl and Frederick; Harmon, a farmer living near Liberty Center, Ohio, who married Clara Hudson, and has two children, Goldie and Ralph; Louise, who died February 26, 1905, the wife of James Fahringer, who left her husband with three sons, Harry, Ora and Arthur; Charles, of Lima, Ohio, who married Minnie Freeman, and has three daughters, Vera, Mildred and a baby.

John C. Zahrend attended the common schools, of Liberty Center, Ohio, and later took a course in a Detroit business college. He was first employed as a clerk in a general store at Bluffton, Ohio, and later engaged in the grocery business at that place, with Charles Day. He sold out his interests in the grocery store, a short time after his marriage, and moved to Lima, Ohio, in 1886, where he took a position in a shoe store. A few years later he moved to Leipsic, Ohio, and became a partner of the O. E. Townsend Company, a company operating a large lumber and planing mill, in Leipsic. The firm consisted of John Zahrend, his brother-in-law, O. E. Townsend, and the latter's father, I. M. Townsend. Mr. Zahrend continued in this business until it was sold to the Robert Hixon Lumber Company, after which he was retained by the latter company as the manager of the plant. He was also interested in the Peters Lumber Company, of Irwin, Kentucky.

Mr. Zahrend was in active business in Leipsic until his death, March 7, 1905. He was held in high esteem by his business associates, and throughout

the community where he had lived so many years. He was a man of strict business integrity, and had a fine Christian character. He was a loyal member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and was interested in everything which pertained to its welfare. He was a class leader, and a member of the official board of the Methodist church at Leipsic. He was especially interested in temperance work.

Since the death of her husband, Mrs. Zahrend makes her home in Leipsic, with her three unmarried children. One of Mrs. Zahrend's uncles, on her mother's side, James Hoagland, died in his early twenties, while living at Fort Wayne, Indiana. Before his death, he was elected to the state Senate of Indiana, but died before the Legislature convened. He was said to be the youngest man who had been elected to the Indiana Senate up to that time.

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#### FRANK GMEINER.

There are citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, who have come here from many states in the Union, as well as many foreign countries. The Austrian empire has contributed some of the best citizens who are now making their homes in this country and among them, Frank Gmeiner, of Ottawa, occupies a prominent place. Coming to this country with his parents when a small boy, he has been a resident of Putnam county, since the spring of 1864, and for the past half century has been actively interested in everything pertaining to the welfare of the county. His parents dying shortly after he reached his majority, left him with five younger children, to whom he acted as father and mother.

Frank Gmeiner, the son of George and Mary (Flatz) Gmeiner, was born on December 3, 1852, in Vorardelberg, Tyrol, Austria. He was six years of age when his parents came to America and located in Sandusky county, Ohio, nine miles northwest of Fremont. In that county his father bought forty acres of timbered land, on which was a log school house, that had just been abandoned. He lived in the school house until such time as he was able to provide a better house. George Gmeiner cleared his land and had it partly improved when the Civil War broke out. He enlisted in the Seventy-second Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry and after his enlistment had expired, in the spring of 1864, he sold his farm in Sandusky county and moved to Putnam county, where he bought eighty acres of timbered land, in Monterey township, four and one-half miles northwest of

Ottoville. Here again the family lived in a school house for a short time, Mr. Gmeiner renting it for about two or three months until he could build a log cabin for the family. On this farm George Gmeiner and his wife lived, until their death, both dying in October, 1875, the mother dying on the second day of the month and the father on the sixteenth. It is a singular coincidence that both of them died at half past three, on a Friday morning.

When George Gmeiner and his wife died, in the fall of 1875, they left six children. Frank, with whom this narrative deals, was the eldest, he being about twenty-two years of age at the time. The next eldest child was six years younger than he, his eldest sister being fourteen years of age, at which time she became the housekeeper for the orphan children. The youngest child was only seven years of age. The six children were as follows: Frank, of Ottawa; Gebhard, of Washington; Mary, the wife of Charles Duvall, of Havana, Arkansas; Leonard, who is a farmer of this county, living between Kalida and Cloverdale; Kate, the wife of Joseph Leatherman, a farmer living near Vaughnsville, in this county; and George, a baker at St. Louis, Missouri. Upon the death of his parents, Frank became executor of his father's will and at his father's request before his death, took his place as head of the family and took charge of the farm and little flock of fatherless children, who were obedient and were industrious and prospered. A few years later, the paternal estate was divided equally, each of the children going into the world to make a living. All of them have become useful members of society.

Frank Gmeiner moved to Ottoville, and he and J. J. Miller and Andrew Kehres started a tile factory at that place. He continued in that business for about six years and then disposed of it and went into partnership with William Gasser in the planing mill in the same place. He remained in this for about seven years, after which he engaged in the general real estate, loan and insurance business, which he has since followed.

Mr. Gmeiner, very early in life, began to fill official positions in his township and county. At the age of twenty-two he was elected justice of the peace and was re-elected for another term. He has also served as a notary public, taking out a commission more as a convenience to the public than for any remuneration which he might receive from the office. He has been frequently called upon to serve as an executor, administrator, guardian, etc. As a matter of fact, his time was so consumed in this way that in 1896, he disposed of his interest in the planing mill and lumber business and devoted all of his time to the real estate, loan and insurance business.

Mr. Gmeiner was elected recorder of Putnam county in 1902 and took

charge of the office in September of the same year and held it for three years. At the expiration of his first term, he was re-elected and served for another three years. During the second term incumbency, the law was changed as to the term of recorder's office to two years, and he was commissioned to hold over one year more, so that he held the office continuously for seven years, the last term expiring in 1909. Since that time he has continued to reside in Ottawa, and is engaged in various lines of activity. He does a considerable amount of land abstracting, buying and selling real estate, making loans and acting as guardian and administrator for estates. He was appointed by the state board in September, 1913, as a member of the board of liquor license commissioners for Putnam county, and is still serving in this capacity.

Mr. Gmeiner was married on June 7, 1893, to Mary Mallifskey. She was born at New Washington, Crawford county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Martin and Mary (Gorise) Mallifskey. Her parents were natives of German Bohemia, in Austria, and came to Ottoville, Putnam county, in the fall of 1892. Her mother died in this county, October 17, 1893, when her father came to live with Mr. and Mrs. Gmeiner and remained with them until he dropped dead suddenly in the court house at Ottawa, June 21, 1911.

Mr. and Mrs. Gmeiner are loyal members of the Catholic church. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Knights of Ohio and also St. Peter's and Paul's Aid Society.

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### NIMROD SPEAKER.

The oldest resident of Belmore, Putnam county, Ohio, is Nimrod Speaker, who has been engaged in business in that place for twenty-nine years. When he first came to the pleasant village of Belmore, there was only a little board depot and two log cabins. During his long residence in the village he has seen it grow to its present prosperous condition, and has borne no inconsiderable part in making it what it is today. A leading business man for more than a quarter of a century, he has been active in promoting the general prosperity of the town, and during a great part of this period, he has held one official position or another. He is now retired from active work and is spending his declining years in retirement, highly honored and respected by everyone who knows him.

Nimrod Speaker, the son of Andrew and Elizabeth (Moreland) Speaker,



was born on March 21, 1841, in Licking county, Ohio. His parents were natives of western Pennsylvania and Virginia, respectively, and came to Licking county with their respective parents. Andrew Speaker was a son of Charles Speaker. Elizabeth Moreland was a daughter of David Moreland, and both the Speaker and Moreland families were early pioneers in Licking county. Andrew Speaker and family moved to Putnam county, in 1857, and located in Blanchard township, not far east of Leipsic, and there, on a farm, the parents both died within four weeks of each other, in 1866.

Soon after the family located in this county, Nimrod Speaker went to Put-in-Bay Island and worked there for some time. However, his health became impaired and, in 1861, he came to Belmore and worked in the timber, cutting out wood and timber, until 1868. In that year he and his brother, George, bought a general store, at Belmore, and continued in partnership, until 1890. In that year, his brother withdrew from the business, and Mr. Speaker continued it alone, until 1897, when he retired from active work. Mr. Speaker has been a participant in the life of Belmore, since its inception. He is better informed on the history of the town than any other man.

Mr. Speaker was married in 1865 to Hattie Ward, who was a native of Ireland and was two years of age when her parents brought her to America, the youngest of several children. At New York both parents died and the children were left orphans. Relatives came and got them and reared them, these relatives living on a farm next to Mr. Speaker's father's home. He and his wife were schoolmates together, in their childhood days. To this union were born three children, George, who died at the age of twenty; Edward, who died in childhood; Katherine, who died on January 2, 1913, leaving her husband, Alvin Hook, with three children, two sons and a daughter.

Mr. Speaker married Ellen Blue, in 1883, who was reared in Ashland county, Ohio, and came to Putnam county, with her brother, William, and now lives five miles east of Belmore. To this second union have been born three children, John Burgan, Harvey and William. John B. is a minister in the Methodist church, and is now stationed in Illinois. He married Lola Lonzway, and has three children. Harvey is a painter and decorator and makes his home in Belmore. William is a farmer at Belmore, who married Gertrude Linkhart. The mother of these three children died, in 1904.

Mr. Speaker has been justice of the peace, for thirteen years, and still has three years more to serve of his present term. He has been clerk of his township for two terms, treasurer for two terms, and has been on the

school board for the past twenty-seven years. He holds his membership in the Masonic lodge, at Deshler, and in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Belmore. He is financially interested in the Belmore Banking Company, and is now the vice-president of that institution.

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### HARRY F. WENDELL.

A substantial business man of Leipsic, Ohio, is Harry F. Wendell, who has been a resident of the city since 1894. He was in the newspaper business for the first few years after coming to this place and then engaged in the mail order business and has been engaged in selling by mail various things ever since that time. He started in by selling memorial cards by mail and still continues this business, although he has since added various other lines, such as mops, fire extinguishers and vacuum washers. Mr. Wendell has taken a very active part in the civic life of Leipsic since becoming a resident of the city, and has been one of the potent factors in advancing reforms of all kinds.

Harry F. Wendell, the son of Daniel and Hannah (Schaub) Wendell, was born in Noble county, Ohio, in 1867. His father was born in the same county, a son of Harrison Wendell. Harrison Wendell was a son of Frederick Wendell, who was high sheriff of Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, for fifty-two years. Harrison Wendell, the grandfather of H. F. Wendell, was born in Shenandoah Valley, in 1816, and came to Batesville, Ohio, when he was about fourteen years of age and helped to build a seven-room brick house in that place. He carried the brick which went into the building as his father, Frederick, erected it. It was in this building, Harrison Wendell died in 1906, which building was for many years the finest in the community.

Daniel Wendell was reared in Noble county and spent his whole life there. He enlisted in the Civil War in the Seventieth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was severely wounded and died from the effects of the wound in 1870. His wife, Hannah Schaub, was born in Monroe county, Ohio.

H. F. Wendell was reared at Batesville, Ohio, until he was sixteen years of age, and then moved to Cambridge, where he learned the printer's trade, and followed that until the spring of 1894. He came to Leipsic in that year and bought the *Leipsic Tribune*, a paper which had been started

two years previously. He was a practical newspaper man and built up the paper and operated it successfully for five years. He sold the paper in 1899 and has since that year been engaged in mail order business, selling memorials, and he has made an immense success of the venture. He still continues the business and now ships his cards all over the United States and Canada. This venture proving so successful he started the United States Mop Company, another mail order concern, with H. S. Huttinger as partner, and managed this business until the fall of 1910, selling mops all over the United States and foreign countries by mail. He and Mr. Huttinger established another mail order proposition in 1909 and sold chemical fire extinguishers under the name of the United Manufacturing Company. He disposed of this business in 1910, at the same time when he relinquished interest in the mop company. He established the Wendell Vacuum Washer Company in the fall of 1913, which he conducts himself. He has a factory at Leipsic for the manufacture of the washers and employs a large office force to attend to the mail orders. Within a very short time he has built up such a business that he now ships his washers all over the civilized world.

Mr. Wendell became one of the incorporators of the First National Bank, of Leipsic, in 1903, and was made vice-president of the institution. The bank went into voluntary liquidation, two years later, and completed its business by paying all depositors in full. He was secretary of the board of trade and for a time vice-president of the Leipsic Industrial Association. He was also president, for a time, of the Law and Order League, an organization which was promoted to improve the moral welfare of the city. This league was very active, after Leipsic went "dry," about ten years ago. Mr. Wendell was one of the most active men in the league and, while the fight was being made to vote the saloons out, he made a canvass of seventeen school districts with petitions signed by the farmers asking the city merchants to take the side of the "drys." These petitions taken together made a row of names fifteen feet long, and was a potent factor in subsequently ousting the saloons from Leipsic.

Mr. Wendell has served on the Leipsic council and is now a member of the school board. He has been asked, repeatedly, to run for mayor, but has steadfastly refused to make the race for the office. He has also served on the board of health, of his city. In fact, there is probably not a man in the city who has been more active in its general welfare than Mr. Wendell, and in all things he has tried to do that which would be the best for the city at large.

Mr. Wendell was married in 1892, to Laura Gallogly, who was a native of Licking county, Ohio, is a daughter of Jacob and Frances (Brown) Gallogly, and to this union has been born one son, Francis, who is now attending the public schools of Leipsic.

Mr. Wendell is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and has attained to the thirty-second degree. He also holds his membership in the Knights of Pythias. He and his wife are active workers in the Presbyterian church, and he has performed the duties of treasurer of his church, and for many years, was a member of the board of trustees. At the present time he is an elder in the denomination. In all things, Mr. Wendell has tried to promote the moral welfare of his community, and it is safe to say that he is distinctively one of the representative men of Leipsic.

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#### LLEWELLYN GEIGER.

One of the enterprising and rising young men, who are native born to Putnam county, Ohio, and who are making names and reputations for themselves in the marts of trade is Llewellyn Geiger, whose father was also born in this county. Marked aptitude and diligence characterize the activities of this young man, who is highly esteemed for his many excellent qualities and for his quiet, gentlemanly methods of transacting his business affairs in the community where he is carving out a career for himself.

Llewellyn Geiger was born in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, May 29, 1883, a son of David G. and Mary (Hilty) Geiger. David Geiger was born on November 7, 1852, in Riley township, a son of John G. and Mary (Lugibihl) Geiger. John G. Geiger was born in 1819, in Berne, Switzerland, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Christian Geiger.

John G. Geiger came to America, with his parents, in 1838, when he was nineteen years of age, and settled in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, where he entered government land. He experienced the usual pioneer hardships, but cleared his land and built a log house of two rooms and a log stable. It was in that house that David G. Geiger was born, one of a family of three sons and five daughters.

David G. Geiger attended the public school and, during the periods when he was not in school, helped his father to clear the land on the farm and to operate the threshing machine which, in those days, was operated by horsepower. At the age of twenty-three, in 1875, he married Mary Hilty, a



MR. AND MRS. LLEWELLYN GEIGER.



daughter of Peter and Catherine (Neunschwander) Hilty, both of whom were of pioneer stock.

After his marriage, he settled on a part of his father's farm, where he still lives. His wife died on April 22, 1885, when Llewellyn Geiger, the subject, was not quite two years of age. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Geiger. They are Matilda, the wife of David Bucher, who lives in Riley township; Helena, the wife of Amos Hilty, who lives in Allen county; Gideon, who married Elizabeth Steiner and lives in Lima, Ohio; Elizabeth, the wife of Ezra Steiner; Llewellyn, the principal of this sketch, and Tillman, who married Rosa Suter and lives in Riley township.

David Geiger was married a second time, in 1886 or 1887, his second wife being Rosine Gilliam, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Gilliam. Six children were born to this union, also, who are, Mary, unmarried, who lives at home; Hulda, the wife of Oswin Gerber, of Pandora, Ohio; Hiram, who married Cecil Starkey, and lives at Pandora, Ohio; John, Melvina and William, who live at home.

David Geiger has always done general farming and has been eminently successful. He is a loyal member of the Swiss Mennonite church and is active in its work.

He is a staunch member of the Democratic party and has always taken an active interest in political matters. For three years he has been a school director, an office which he has filled to the complete satisfaction of the citizens.

Llewellyn Geiger was born in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, May 29, 1883. He grew to manhood on the old homestead and attended district school, No. 7, until he was seventeen years of age. He continued to help his father in the operation of the farm until he reached the age of twenty-one, when he began to work as a carpenter, a trade which he followed for three years, spending a large portion of that time working in a saw-mill.

When he was twenty-four years of age, September 15, 1907, Llewellyn Geiger married Pauline Suter, who was born on November 30, 1882, a daughter of David D. and Elizabeth (Neunschwander) Suter, of Riley township. David D. Suter was born in Riley township on April 14, 1852, the son of Christian and Anna (Basinger) Suter. Christian Suter was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Christian Suter, Sr., Elizabeth Neunschwander was the daughter of Isaac and Mary (Steiner) Neunschwander, both of pioneer stock and Swiss descent.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Llewellyn Geiger spent seventeen

months in making a tour to the Pacific coast, spending several months in California and Oregon. On their return, Mr. Geiger engaged in the planing mill business, buying an interest in the firm of D. C. Shank & Company, of which concern he is now vice-president, assistant manager and a director.

Mr. and Mrs. Geiger are both members of the Grace Mennonite church and are active in the church work. He is a member of the Democratic party, has taken an active interest in the political affairs of his community, and in his party affiliations has served as a precinct committeeman.

Llewellyn Geiger is a clean-cut and progressive young business man, of good character and unquestioned integrity. He is well known and universally respected.

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### JOHN WILLIAM ELLERBROCK.

The Ellerbrock family have been residents of Putnam county, Ohio, since 1835, when the parents of John William Ellerbrock came from Hanover, Germany, and settled south of Glandorf. Mr. Ellerbrock grew to maturity in this county and was engaged, for the greater portion of his life, in the manufacture of woolen goods, at Glandorf. In fact, this was the main business of the village of Glandorf for many years. In addition to his woolen manufacturing, he was also engaged in farming, but devoted most of his time and attention to the woolen business. He was a pioneer in the county, and a man who was highly respected by everyone who knew him. He and his good wife reared a large family of children to lives of usefulness, and they, in turn, married and are rearing families of their own.

The late John William Ellerbrock was born in Hanover, Germany, February 10, 1830, and died at his home in Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, May 25, 1914. He was a son of William and Mary C. (Kracht) Ellerbrock, and came to America, in 1836, with his parents, being only six years of age at the time the family located in this county. He was reared amidst pioneer conditions and, from his earliest boyhood, knew what it was to swing an ax and handle the rifle. He received such education as was afforded by the schools of his home neighborhood and, immediately after his marriage, he and several of his friends started the Glandorf woolen mills, and for the most of his life, was engaged in this particular line of business. Later in life, he invested in farming lands and gave some of his attention to the tilling of the soil. He was an excellent business man and his integrity was such that it was never questioned.



John W. Ellerbrock was married on October 22, 1856, to Mary A. Utendorf, who was born on February 9, 1838, south of Glandorf, in this county, and was a daughter of Joseph and Mary A. (Gerdeman) Utendorf. To this union fourteen children were born, ten of whom are still living, Andrew, deceased; a twin brother to Andrew, who died in infancy; Mary, the wife of Matthew Schroeder; Catherine, a nun; Theodore, of Ottawa; Elizabeth, the wife of Henry E. Schweickert, of Peru, Illinois; Philomina, a nun in the same convent with her sister, Catherine; Frank, of Peru, Illinois; Theresa, who is living in Glandorf; Charles B., a business man of Glandorf; Emma, the wife of Peter A. Missler, of Glandorf; Frances, the wife of John Geier, of Galion, Ohio; Joseph, who died in infancy, and Bennie, a twin brother of Emma, who died in infancy. The mother of these children died on July 23, 1910, and the father, as before mentioned, died on May 25, 1914.

The Ellerbrock family are all loyal members of the Catholic church, at Glandorf. Theresa and Charles B. are now living in the old family residence, in Glandorf. John W. Ellerbrock was a man who was widely known throughout the county, and, during his career of nearly eighty years in the county, there was never a time when he was not ready and willing to help those less fortunate than himself. He was charitable to the faults of his neighbors, kind and indulgent to his own family, and a genial and whole-souled citizen, who always stood for the best interests of his community.

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#### FRANK K. HAMMETT.

Almost any business will give a substantial return if it is properly managed. Proper management involves a careful consideration of the relation between revenue and operating expenses. Frank K. Hammett has prospered and has made a success of the drayage and transfer business at Leipsic, because he has never failed to look after his business carefully. Mr. Hammett is one of the substantial citizens of Leipsic.

He was born in 1861 at Covington, Ohio, the son of James H. and Elizabeth (Dunning) Hammett. His father came from Bedford county, Pennsylvania, with his parents to London county, Ohio. He grew up in northeastern Ohio and became the driver of a stagecoach along the shore of Lake Erie, between Cleveland and Buffalo. He was employed to drive a coach, hauling the man who had charge of building the Rock Island rail-

road across Iowa. It was all new country. They stopped at Marengo, a little frontier tavern, and there he met and became much interested in the daughter of the landlord of the little hotel. She was Elizabeth Dunning, the daughter of Theodore Dunning who was a pioneer by nature and inclination, a genial old man who could play the fiddle.

James H. Hammett returned to Ohio and wrote to the girl occasionally. Again he drove across Iowa, along the line of the road in course of construction, to Council Bluffs. When they reached it after a long and tedious journey, they found the town consisted of a tent and a party of men who were there to help build the railroad. In later years Mr. Hammett saw it as a thriving city.

He came back to Ohio but finally returned to Iowa and married the girl. He came back to Covington, Ohio, and worked in an elevator for a time and later bought a farm here, about 1863, where he lived until about 1866. Mr. Dunning, his wife's father, moved here during the war and started the old Leipsic hotel in a two-story frame building, on the corner, where the Geltz store is now located. There were only a few houses then and not over forty inhabitants in the town aside from the railroad construction gang. The old man got the pioneer fever again about 1866, fixed up a pioneer wagon and he and his wife drove to Nebraska, where they entered land and spent the rest of their lives with their sons and daughters who also entered land and prospered in the same community.

Some time after his marriage James H. Hammett moved to Leipsic and took a place in a store. Later he moved to Leipsic and worked in an elevator for two years. Finally he and John Alt went into the general merchandise business and prospered. They extended the business and built an elevator and did a large business in grain. They met with reverses, however, and had to retire, Mr. Hammett turning his attention to the insurance business. He later moved to Toledo and took a place in a large agricultural implement business, living there until his death. Mr. Hammett was twice married.

By his first marriage were born three children, Luella, Frank K., the subject of this sketch, and William W. Frank K. was about three years old when his mother died. His father then married Mrs. Ann Elizabeth (Black) Waters, a widow, and to this second union five children were born, Lily, who died at the age of three; Eva Netta, Alva DeLoss, Lettie Arlina and Edward Early.

Frank K. Hammett grew up at Leipsic and after working in various lines, in July, 1878, began draying at Leipsic and has followed this business

for thirty-seven years. Most of the time he has had from ten to twelve men employed and many teams. He has prospered exceedingly in this business. He was agent for the American Express Company for over fifteen years, or until March, 1913.

Mr. Hammett was married to Mary M. Hayes, in 1883. She was born in Warren county, Ohio. One son has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hammett, December 28, 1884, Harry H. He attended the Tri-State Business College at Toledo, Ohio, and has been a stenographer most of the time since. He has worked mostly in railroad services; has traveled over most of the United States and in fourteen foreign countries. He has been in Cuba, Mexico, Hawaii, the Philippines, Japan, where he spent two years, China, Island of Guam and most of the principal European countries. In fact, his chief occupation has been traveling. He has a vast fund of information first hand. Altogether Harry H. Hammett has traveled not less than one hundred and fifteen thousand miles, undoubtedly, the most widely-traveled man in Putnam county, Ohio.

Frank K. Hammett is popular in Leipsic and an influential citizen in his community. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias. Mr. Hammett remembers Leipsic in its early days. He has seen deer between Main street and Leipsic Junction and wild game in abundance where the town now stands.

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#### THEODORE DETERS.

A prominent citizen of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, who was born in this village, before the Civil War, and has spent his entire life in the county, is Theodore Deters. Both of his parents were born in Germany, and they settled in this county in 1841. Since that time, the Deters family have been residents of Glandorf. Mr. Deters has served as assessor of Ottawa township, for more than twenty years, and has filled various other official positions in an efficient and satisfactory manner.

Theodore Deters, the son of Frank William and Mary (Redecker) Deters, was born on May 13, 1858, in Glandorf, near the present location of the tile factory. His father was a native of Oldenburg, Germany, his birth having occurred there on April 14, 1814, coming to America at the age of nine, having previously lost both of his parents. Upon coming to America he became a sailor and, from the age of seventeen until he was twenty-six years of age, he traveled over much of the world in a sailing

vessel. He then left the sea and, for seven years, worked in a pottery factory at Cincinnati. It was while living there he married Mary Redecker. His wife was born in Hanover, Germany, and came to America in 1833, with her parents, Henry and Mary Redecker. The Redecker family located in Putnam county, Ohio, south of Ottawa, where the father bought a farm and lived the remainder of his days. Frank W. Deters and his wife moved to Glandorf, in Putnam county, in 1841, where he bought forty acres and settled down to the life of a farmer. Later he bought one hundred and twenty acres north of New Cleveland, but spent all of his life in the village of Glandorf, where he died, in 1887. He served as land appraiser on two different occasions and for many years was assessor of Ottawa township, filling this office for more than eighteen years, from 1856 to 1874. He and his family were loyal members of the Catholic church. His widow died on August 26, 1910. Ten children were born to Frank W. Deters and wife, only three of whom are now living, Theodore, of Glandorf; Frank, of Hamler, Henry county, Ohio, and William, a farmer living three miles north of Glandorf.

Theodore Deters received his education in the schools of Glandorf and worked on his father's farm during his boyhood days. He remained at home until his marriage and then began farming for himself, continuing to reside in Glandorf. He served as assessor of Ottawa township, from 1891 until the spring of 1914. He has also been the appraiser of the Glandorf German Building and Loan Association, for six years. He has taken an active part in the civic life of Glandorf, and has been a member of the council for three years.

Mr. Deters was married in 1882, to Magdalene Wischmeyer, who was a native of Hanover, Germany, and, in 1879, came to America with her father, Henry, and her sister, settling in Glandorf, where an elder brother, Herman, had previously located. Her father spent the rest of his life here with his children.

Mr. Deters and his wife are the parents of six children, Frank, a painter who married Magdalene Lehman, and has two children, Lenora and Edna; Mary, the wife of Edward Gerdig, of Ottawa; Magdalene, who is still living with her parents; Frances, who married Charles Ellerbrock, a farmer of Glandorf, and has three children, Carolos, Mildred and Bertha; Joseph, who is now teaching in the public schools at New Cleveland, Ohio; Henry, who is still living at home with his parents.

Mr. Deters and his family are all members of the St. John's Catholic church, of Glandorf. He is also president of the St. John's Aid Society.

## GEORGE FRANKLIN POLK SMITH.

An enterprising newspaper man, of Leipsic, is George Franklin Polk Smith, who is the able editor of the *Free Press*, in that place. His father was the editor of this same paper for many years, and Mr. Smith has worked in newspaper offices from his boyhood days. He has had a very interesting career, having spent many years in professional baseball, where he made a record as a player. He received an injury, in 1910, which compelled him to leave the profession and since that time he has given all of his time to newspaper work. Since the death of his father, in 1912, has had sole charge of the *Free Press*.

George F. Smith, the son of William W. and Viola Ann (Baughman) Smith, was born at Leipsic, Ohio, June 14, 1888. His father was connected with the *Free Press* in Leipsic for many years, and was editor and owner up until the time of his death, February 16, 1912.

Mr. Smith spent his boyhood days in Leipsic, and after finishing two years in the high school in this place, entered Lima College, as a student, but did not complete his college course. When he was sixteen years of age, he became a member of the Leipsic Baseball Club, and while with this club had a state-wide reputation. When he was about eighteen years of age, he branched out as a professional baseball player with the Zanesville team, in Ohio. This team was in the Ohio-Pennsylvania League, and he remained with Zanesville for two years, and then spent one season in Galveston, Texas, playing with the team of that city, after which he went to Peoria, Illinois, and joined the Three I League. After spending half a season with this team, he went to Kewanee, Illinois, where he finished the season. The next two seasons were spent in the Ohio State League, and he was in this league when he injured a ligament, in 1910, and had to retire from professional baseball. Since that time he has given all of his attention to newspaper work, and upon the death of his father assumed control of the paper which that parent had so ably edited for many years. During all of the time he was playing baseball, he spent the rest of the year in his father's newspaper office and, when he took over the paper in 1912, he was thoroughly conversant with every detail of newspaper management. Consequently, he was abundantly able to take charge of the paper and he has already demonstrated marked ability in its management. He conducts a first-class paper, all of which is printed in his own plant. He is constantly on the alert for up-to-date methods, and has added a number of

features which have increased the circulation as well as the usefulness of the paper.

Mr. Smith was married on April 5, 1910, on his father's sixtieth birthday, to Mary Magdalene Orians, who was born near Kirby, Ohio, and reared at Upper Sandusky. She is the eldest of ten children born to Frank J. and Rachel (Cooper) Orians.

Mr. Smith and his wife are the parents of three children, George F., Jr., born on January 29, 1911, who died five days later; Robert James, born on June 19, 1912, and Mary Janet, born on April 21, 1914.

Mr. Smith is an ardent supporter of the Democratic party and advocates its principles in his paper. He belongs to the Findlay Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Ottawa Council, Knights of Columbus, and the Wadras Caravan of the Alhambra, of Toledo. He also holds his membership in the Leipsic Club. He and his family are loyal members of the Catholic church.

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#### JACOB A. SUTER.

The career of Jacob A. Suter contains no exciting chapter of tragic events, but is replete with well-defined purpose, which, carried to successful issue, has won for him an influential place in business circles and high personal standing among his fellow citizens. His life work has been one of unceasing industry and perseverance. The systematic and honorable methods, which he has ever followed, have resulted, not only in winning the confidence of those with whom he has had business dealings, but also in building up a large and profitable business. The Pandora Overall Company, in which Mr. Suter is superintendent, vice-president and a member of the board of directors, is one of Putnam county's leading industrial enterprises, and to Mr. Suter is due a large share of the credit for its successful career.

Jacob A. Suter was born on September 25, 1874, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Abraham and Elizabeth (Lugibihl) Suter, the former of whom was born in 1824, in Wayne county, Ohio. Abraham Suter was the son of John and Elizabeth Suter. John Suter was a native of Switzerland.

Jacob A. Suter spent his boyhood days on the old homestead farm where he attended the district schools and helped his father during the summer months.

At the age of twenty-three, on February 10, 1898, Mr. Suter was mar-

ried to Barbara Amstutz, the daughter of Abraham M. and Catherine (Hilty) Amstutz. The family history of Abraham M. Amstutz will be found in the sketch of P. A. Amstutz, a brother of Mrs. Suter, and the history of Mrs. Abraham M. Amstutz will be found in the sketch of Isaac Hilty, her brother. To Mr. and Mrs. Jacob A. Suter have been born three children, Elda Loretta, who is a student in the high school; Orlo Edison, who is in school, and Royle Kenneth.

After his marriage, Mr. Suter took charge of the old home place. He lived here for about one year and a half and then removed to Pandora, where he became interested in the Pandora Manufacturing Company. He was one of the organizers of the enterprise, the other members of the firm being the Gerber brothers, John Amstutz and Albert Burry. Mr. Suter took the position of secretary and treasurer of the new company and looked after the mechanical end of the business. About four years later, the mill burned, and the company was reorganized under the name of the Pandora Overall Company. Since the organization of the new firm, which has an annual production of over two hundred thousand dollars, Mr. Suter has acted as superintendent and has served in the capacity of vice-president and a member of the board of directors.

Reverting to Mr. Suter's family history, John Suter, his grandfather, came with his wife to America in the early days and settled in Wayne county, Ohio, near Orrville. It was here that his family of twelve children, four sons and eight daughters, was educated and reared.

Abraham Suter, one of the elder children, was bound out at the age of eight years to learn the shoemaker's trade. He remained at home until he was a young man. He then came to Putnam county, where, for a time, he worked for different farmers in Riley township. Subsequently, he entered a tract of eighty acres of land from the government, one mile east of Pandora. This land was covered with virgin timber and a great deal of water. Abraham Suter first built a log cabin and barn and then proceeded to clear his farm. A few acres were prepared each year until, finally, the whole farm had been put under cultivation. Before entering his land from the government, Abraham Suter had been married to Elizabeth Lugibihl, the daughter of John Lugibihl and wife. It was shortly after his marriage, that he started in to find a new home in the wilderness. Abraham Suter and wife passed through the usual pioneer experiences in clearing their land, draining it and getting it ready for the plow. It was on this homestead, the family of twelve children lived. This family consisted of John, Mary, Peter A., Barbara, Catherine, Fannie, Susan, Magdalene, Elizabeth, Jacob

A., Sarah and one who died in infancy. Abraham Suter added to his original farm of eighty acres and greatly improved his additional farm holding. He died on the old home place, having been killed by a runaway team, in November, 1897. About one year later, in November, 1898, his wife passed away. She was a member of the Mennonite church and was a splendid Christian woman, a devoted wife and a loving mother. Abraham Suter was also a member of the Mennonite church. He was an ardent Democrat and an industrious, hard-working citizen, a man of high ideals and unquestioned integrity.

Jacob A. Suter, like his father, is a man of unquestioned integrity in the community where he lives and where his active business work is carried on. He is a Democrat, but has never been especially active in the councils of his party. He is a member of the Grace Mennonite church, as is also his wife. Jacob A. Suter is a clean-cut, progressive young business man and one of the original organizers of one of Putnam county's largest industries. He is recognized as a good citizen and a man of splendid attainments.

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W. H. HICKEY, M. D., AND W. D. HICKEY, M. D.

Men who have obtained success in their professional work are always honored and respected by the community in which they have lived and labored. Dearly loved are those who always find time to work in the interest of the whole community, inspiring others to industry, public spirit and faithfulness. Such men never fail to raise the standard of life in their community and the biographer is always proud to record the incidents of their lives. A descendant of men who fought bravely for freedom in the Revolutionary War and who, himself, has been a loyal patriot in another way is William Henry Hickey, M. D., of Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio.

William Henry Hickey, M. D., was born in 1847, in Licking county, Ohio, the son of Henry and Mary (Wilkins) Hickey. Henry Hickey was born on June 29, 1820, in Licking county, the son of William and Phoebe (Shambaugh) Hickey. William Hickey came from Winchester county, Virginia, not far from Baltimore, Maryland, coming to Ohio in 1813, and locating in Licking on a leased farm of forty acres, owned by Congressman Stansbury. William Hickey was the son of Edward Hickey. Edward Hickey was an Irish boy from County Clare, Ireland, who came over with nineteen others under a contract to work for their passage after they ar-



rived in America. They were employed building docks, at Baltimore, and the entire twenty, with their employers, enlisted in the Revolutionary army under the command of Ewing, who was with Washington at the crossing of the Delaware. Ewing's force was kept on one side of the river, while Washington went across and won the victory.

William Hickey was a soldier in the War of 1812 and he and his father are buried side by side in Barnes' graveyard, near Wilkins Corner, in Licking county.

Mary Wilkins was born on a farm adjoining the Hickey farm, in Licking county, a daughter of Henry and Magdalena (Smootz) Wilkins. They were from the Shenandoah valley, in Virginia, and from here they came to Ohio. Her parents were of Huguenot ancestry. Her father built the second grist-mill in Licking county, a mill that ran until the close of the Civil War.

Henry Hickey and wife moved to Putnam county, October 6, 1851, bringing with them their two sons, Dr. William H. and Reese F. Henry Hickey located on a farm one mile south of Gilboa and lived in that community the rest of his life. His wife died on October 17, 1865. She was the mother of William H., Reese, Magdalena, Rolla and Lyman David, the latter dying when two years old. Rolla died at Hammond, Indiana, in 1912. Magdalena is the wife of Charles F. Stolzenbach, Jr., the well-known baker of Lima. Reese lives south of Gilboa, on a farm.

After the death of his first wife, Henry Hickey married Sarah Harris and to this union was born one son, Edward F., who has been in the employ of the Standard Oil Company, at Woodstock, Canada, for many years. Henry Hickey died on April 21, 1871.

Dr. William H. Hickey grew up on the farm south of Gilboa and attended college at Haysville in Ashland county. He studied medicine with T. E. Paul, M. D., of Ottawa. He attended the Medical College, in Cincinnati, and also the medical department of Western Reserve University, at Cleveland, where he was graduated on April 1, 1870. He began the practice of medicine, in Leipsic, April 15, 1870, and here he has practiced medicine since that time. Dr. Hickey also has a farm at the north edge of Leipsic.

Dr. William H. Hickey was married on February 10, 1870, to Rachel Creighton. She was born in Kalida, and was a daughter of John E. and Mary Elizabeth (Stout) Creighton. Her father was left an orphan and brought to Putnam county by an uncle, William McClure, from Pennsylvania, who was county treasurer of Putnam county, during the seventies, and who died while in office. John E. Creighton grew up and served as

county auditor, of Putnam county. Mary E. Stout was a daughter of Elisha and Abigail Stout. Elisha Stout came from Coshocton county, Ohio, during the late twenties and entered land where the town of \*Gilboa is now located. In fact, he laid out the first plat of the town and also built the first grist-mills at Gilboa, one located two miles up the river, while another was built two miles down the river. His was the first water-power mill in the county and in order to run it he had to go to Columbus to get a permit from the legislature. Coming home, he started in the afternoon and reached Gilboa in the evening of the next day. He had a wonderful constitution. John E. Creighton entered land where Leipsic Junction is now located, and platted the first town lots at Leipsic. It was first called Craton-town. At Leipsic Station, lots were later plated.

William H. Hickey and wife are the parents of four children living and two dead, as follows: Brandon D., Jennie C., Wiley D., and Floyd. Brandon was born in 1871, and is now yardmaster on the Nickel Plate railroad at Continental. He graduated from the Tri-State Normal School, at Angola, and the Lima Business College. He was admitted to the practice of law, in Angola, and practiced there for three years. He married Maude M. Nease and has one son, Robert. Jennie C., who graduated from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and Oberlin Conservatory of Music, lives near Limon, Colorado. Wiley D. Hickey, M. D., was born in 1874. He attended the Hiram College, where he graduated in 1895. Upon graduation, at Hiram, he entered the medical department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, in the fall of 1896, graduating in 1900. He immediately began practicing, at Leipsic, Ohio, and has practiced with his father since that time. Wiley D. Hickey, M. D., was married on June 12, 1905, to Eleanor A. Rowland, of Columbus Grove, the daughter of David Rowland and wife. Mrs. W. D. Hickey attended the Oberlin conservatory of Music. Dr. and Mrs. W. D. Hickey have one daughter, Dorothy Ellen. Floyd D. lives at Limon, Colorado, on a cattle ranch owned by him, his sister, Jennie, and their father. He was born in 1882, and graduated from the Ann Arbor high school, and at the Eastman Business College, at Poughkeepsie, New York.

Dr. William H. Hickey has served as township treasurer for two terms; mayor of Leipsic two terms, and a member of the council and board of education. He was health officer of Van Buren township for twenty-five consecutive years and is the present health officer at Leipsic. Wiley D. Hickey, M. D., has been mayor two terms, health officer of Leipsic two terms, and is at present a member of the city council. Brandon was justice of the

peace of Van Buren township for two terms. Brandon and Dr. W. D. were both in Company A., Sixth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in the Spanish-American War. Dr. Wiley D. was for five years assistant surgeon of the Second Regiment, Ohio National Guard, with the rank of first lieutenant, and, at the time of his resignation, was ranking first lieutenant in the medical department. William H. Hickey, M. D., was a charter member of the Masonic lodge at Leipsic, and his sons are also members of the same local lodge. Brandon is also a member of the Knights of Pythias. Dr. Wiley D. is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. Mrs. William H. Hickey was elected a member of the school board at the first election after the law was passed authorizing the election of women and was treasurer of the board all the time she was a member.

William H. Hickey, M. D., and Wiley D. Hickey, M. D., are both members of the Putnam County Medical Society, the Northwestern Ohio Medical Society and the Ohio State Medical Society. William H. Hickey, M. D., was pension examiner under Cleveland's administration. Wiley D. Hickey, M. D., is a member of the Egbert Spanish War Veterans' Association, at Toledo, Ohio.

There are only six or seven people in Leipsic who were here when W. H. Hickey, M. D., came. He is very well known in this part of the state, as an able physician and a public-spirited man. He has also given his children exceptional educational advantages, far beyond the average, at a great personal sacrifice to himself. He has lived and guided his children so that they feel a kind fellowship with him and honor him as dutiful and loving sons and daughters.

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#### BENJAMIN F SEITZ, SR.

The future of this country lies in the hands of the present generation. Those who contribute most to the welfare of future generations are those who are at this minute keenly interested in progressive movements affecting all lines of human endeavor—those who are ever active in their business, their trade or profession. These are the men who acquire splendid fortunes, accumulate vast and fertile farms and a lucrative and enviable professional practice. These are the men who serve their fellow men faithfully, whatever may be their chosen profession. One of the well-known citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, and a man who has been foremost in the business affairs of this

county is Benjamin F. Seitz, Sr., vice-president of the Exchange Bank, of Columbus Grove.

Benjamin F. Seitz, Sr., was born on September 16, 1853, in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, on a farm. He first saw the light of day in an old log cabin and has slept many a night under a slab board roof of a log cabin, through which the snow sifted in his face. His parents were pioneer settlers of Putnam county. He is the son of David and Lydia (Hufford) Seitz. David Seitz was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1819. His parents were David and Catherine Seitz.

The father of Benjamin F. Seitz, Sr., grew up in Fairfield county, Ohio, and while living there married Lydia Hufford, who was born and reared in Perry county, Ohio, the daughter of Daniel Hufford. David Seitz and wife moved to Putnam county in 1847, settling in Union township. They purchased land for one dollar and seventy-five cents an acre, all of which was wild wood. Until Mr. Seitz could build a log cabin, the family lived at the home of Abram Funk, nearby. Before the family was brought to the cabin, David Seitz had partly furnished it. The first night after the arrival of the family, he finished enough floor upon which to place a bed, and the wife cooked the first meal beside a sugar stump. It was in this cabin that Benjamin F. Seitz, Sr., was born and spent his boyhood days. He still remembers seeing a few wild deer and many turkeys during his youth. On this farm his parents lived and died. David Seitz had more than ordinary political influence in his community. He was a justice of the peace, land appraiser and township trustee. Benjamin F. Seitz lived on this farm until his marriage.

He was married in 1877 to Sarah J. Funk, the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Clevenger) Funk, a grand-daughter of Abraham Funk, who sheltered them when his father's family first came to Putnam county. Mrs. Seitz was born in Sugar Creek township. Her father and mother both grew up in Putnam county. Abraham Funk came from Fairfield county before the arrival of the Seitz family. Elizabeth Clevenger was the daughter of Samuel Clevenger, who was reared in Putnam county and the son of pioneer parents, coming from Franklin county. They settled where Vaughnsville is now located. Samuel Clevenger's father owned considerable land along Sugar creek.

After Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin F. Seitz, Sr., were married they settled on a tract of wooden land in Sugar Creek township. The land was just as it had been left by the Indians, except for a small patch of deadened timber. Mr. Seitz still has the sheepskin deed that was signed by President James K.

Polk. He and his wife went to housekeeping in a log cabin until Mr. Seitz could build a house. He owned eighty acres of land then and he improved this farm and added an adjoining eighty. Later he added one hundred and fourteen acres across the road in the same township, a total of two hundred and seventy-four acres. He continued farming there until 1905, when he moved to Columbus Grove, and has lived here since that time. He still owns this farm, except fifty-seven acres, which he sold.

About twelve years ago Mr. Seitz purchased an interest in the Exchange Bank, and upon the death of Mr. Crawford, who was then president, in 1911, he became president of the bank and served in that capacity until it was reorganized as a state bank. He decided that the president should be at the bank regularly during business hours and that another should hold the place, so he gave up this office and the present incumbent has served as president, Mr. Seitz serving as vice-president.

To Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin F. Seitz, Sr., seven children have been born, one of whom, Bessie, died at the age of fourteen months. Those living are John D., Maude, Peter, Benjamin F., Jr., David and Marion. John D., who lives on part of his father's farm, married Nellie Reynolds, and has four children, May, Helen, Lucile and Margery. Maud, who married J. D. Guffy, lives in Shawnee, Oklahoma, and has four children, Roy, Russell, Fay and Vestina. Peter, who lives in Sugar Creek township, on the old homestead, married Dula Dresky and has four children, Charles, Clarence (deceased), Blanche and Myrtle. Benjamin F., Jr., who lives in Columbus Grove, married Myrtle Reiger and has three children, Emerson, Christine and Mildred. David, who lives in Columbus Grove, married Vida Sakemiller and has one daughter, Donna. Marion F. is now fifteen years old.

Mr. Seitz recalls the early roads of Putnam county, when it required a whole day to go six miles from the farm to Columbus Grove, and back again. At the time Mr. Seitz was rearing his family it required a day to haul four or five hogs to Columbus Grove.

Mr. Seitz and wife belong to the Christian church and Mr. Seitz is a trustee in this denomination, also being chorister for some time in the church at Columbus Grove. Formerly he was clerk of the Ottawa River church, in Sugar Creek township. Mr. Seitz is a member of the Knights of Pythias. Few men in Putnam county are better known than Benjamin F. Seitz, Sr., and a few men are more entitled to the confidence and esteem of the community which he enjoys to the fullest measure, than he. He is one of those men of whom it may be truly said when his last work is finished, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

## LEVI HUMMON.

One of the oldest pioneer settlers of Putnam county, Ohio, is Levi Hummon, whose whole career, of more than seventy-seven years, has been spent within this county. He and his young bride started in with an eighty-acre farm in 1859, where they lived until 1906. Mr. Hummon had one hundred and sixty acres of well-improved land when he moved to Leipsic, in the spring of 1906, which is the direct result of his own work, supplemented by that of his wife and children. He and his good wife have reared a large family of children to lives of usefulness and honor. A greater thing than this can no man do.

Levi Hummon, the son of John and Mary (Winninger) Hummon, was born in Putnam county, Ohio, December 31, 1837. His father, a son of Peter and Mary (Carn) Hummon, was born at Kittanning, Pennsylvania, in 1815. Peter Hummon was a native of Pennsylvania, a farmer in his early life and, later, a distiller of whiskey and applejack. Mary Carn was a native of Holland, who came to America alone, when a girl, and located in Kittanning, Pennsylvania, where she met and married Peter Hummon.

It is interesting to note how the Hummon family came to locate in Ohio. After Peter Hummon and his wife had been married several years, and she had reared six children, she came, alone on horseback, to Wyandot county, Ohio, where she entered one hundred and sixty acres of government land. After accomplishing this unique feat she returned to Pennsylvania and then, with her husband and six children, together with all of their household effects, came back to Ohio and made their home in the wilderness. They made the overland trip with an ox team and located in Wyandot county, where they lived the remainder of their lives. Peter Hummon and wife were the parents of ten children, eight daughters and two sons, one of whom was John Hummon, the father of Levi.

John Hummon was reared on the farm in Wyandot county, and there experienced all the hardships and thrills of pioneer life. When he was a small boy he was often frightened by the Indians, who, though harmless, enjoyed seeing the lad run. He remained on the homestead until he grew to manhood, and, about 1836, married Mary Winninger, a native of Germany, who came to Ohio with her parents and located in Wyandot county. Immediately after their marriage, John Hummon and his young bride moved from Wyandot county to Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1837, where they entered government land. This farm he cleared, developed and



MR. AND MRS. LEVI HUMMON.





lived upon the remainder of his life. There were ten children born to John Hummon and wife, five of whom are still living, Levi, Adam, deceased; George, deceased; David, Peter, Minerva, Clara and Ada, deceased. One boy, William, died at the age of thirteen, and a daughter, Mary Ann, died at the age of two.

Levi Hummon was born the year after his parents located in Putnam county, consequently he was reared amid pioneer conditions. He attended the typical log-cabin school house with its slab desks, pine benches and puncheon floors. He helped his father clear the farm and erect the buildings. The first house on the old place was the ordinary log cabin. This was replaced a few years later by a hewed-log house, which was more pretentious, and it was on this farm Levi Hummon remained until his marriage in 1859. After teaching in one of the schools in that township for a year, he and his young wife located on a farm of eighty acres in Van Buren township, which they finally purchased. This farm is situated about three miles east of Leipsic, to which four years later, they added another eighty acres. The farm was gradually brought under cultivation by Mr. Hummon and his growing sons, and it is safe to say there is not a more attractive or better improved farm in the county.

Levi Hummon was married on November 24, 1859, to Amanda C. Bolton, of Hancock county, Ohio. She was a daughter of John and Mary Bolton and was born in Stark county, Ohio, October 29, 1840, her parents being natives of Pennsylvania. To this union have been born eleven children, Francis, Mary Matilda, John A., Ella L., Cyrus, Byron D., Irvin F., Jenna, Nettie May, Charles E. and Oscar P. Francis, born on November 3, 1860, was first married to Maggie Sutter, who died; later he married Della Hopkins, who is also deceased. His third wife was Ella Cole, of Tacoma, Washington. Two children born to the first marriage, who died in infancy, and to the second marriage six children were born, Merrill, Roy, Carl, Fay, Ethel and Orlo. Mary Matilda, born on July 16, 1862, married Marion Learn, now deceased, and has two children, Glenn and Maud. She makes her home in Detroit, Michigan. John A., born on September 13, 1864, married Elizabeth Phfeister, and now lives in Van Buren township. To this union eight children have been born, Floyd, Esta, Guy, Carrol, Dale, Ona, Ormond and one who died in infancy. Ella B., born on September 20, 1866, died at the age of two. Cyrus, born on January 27, 1869, married Ella Dimple, Vernon, Michigan, and has one daughter, Leota. Byron B., born on July 20, 1871, was first married to Mattie Altman, and after her death, to Bertha Mintie. To his first marriage were born three children,

Derril, Vera and Ina. He is now living at Carmangay, Alberta, Canada. Irvin F., born on July 9, 1874, married Emma Simmons, and has one son, Irvin F., Jr. Irvin F. now lives at Berwin, Illinois. Jenna, born on October 26, 1876, died on October 29, 1876. Nettie May, born on June 27, 1878, died at the age of nineteen. Charles E., of Sapulpa, Oklahoma, born on June 25, 1881, was married to Mamie William, and has two daughters, Beulah and Elizabeth. Oscar P., of Leipsic, born on April 18, 1884, married Ethel A. Bush, and has one son, Raymond.

Mr. Hummon has served as township trustee and as a member of the school board. He has also been treasurer of his township. He has always given his support to the Democratic party and been active in its affairs. Although he has not joined any religious organization he attends the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his wife is a member. Mr. Hummon is still hale and hearty, despite his advanced age, and is able to recall many pioneer experiences, through which he passed in his boyhood days.

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### LOUIS W. KUNTZ.

Success in the mercantile business is founded on strict integrity, good business management and courteous dealings with the public. Such a business is likewise an evidence of the possession of these qualities, because no man can succeed very well without them. The Kuntz store, at Leipsic, Ohio, founded by the late Louis W. Kuntz, is conducted on these principles.

Louis W. Kuntz was born, in 1859, at West Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio, the son of Christian and Mary (Dietz) Kuntz. Christian Kuntz and wife were born, reared and married in Germany, and came to the United States about 1850. They first lived at Scranton, Pennsylvania, and later came to West Leipsic, where they engaged in the saw-mill business. Later, Mr. Kuntz came to Leipsic and took a half interest, with Mr. Foltz, in the grist-mill, at the south end of Leipsic. He sold out his interest there, in the early seventies, and bought a farm at the south edge of the town, living there until July, 1914. He died on February 6, 1915. Christian Kuntz was eighty-nine years old and his widow registers an even four score and ten. They had been married nearly sixty years.

Louis W. Kuntz grew up at Leipsic, and, while a young man, worked in a dry goods store until about twenty years old. He then went into business for himself. He and William Cole were in the grocery business together,

but three years later they dissolved the business, when Louis W. and his brother went into a partnership, which lasted for about fifteen years. After that, Louis W. Kuntz continued in business until his death. At the time he and Mr. Cole were together they also operated a warehouse.

Louis W. Kuntz was married, in 1882, to Emma Wineland. She was born at Van Buren, Hancock county, Ohio, the daughter of George and Isabel (Morehead) Wineland. George Wineland was a native of Pennsylvania. Isabel Morehead was born on a farm in Hancock county, near Findlay. George Wineland and his brother conducted a saw-mill until he went to war. He served in the Civil War, as a soldier, dying in the service, of typhoid fever. At the time of his death he was still a young man. He left a widow and two daughters, of whom Mrs. Louis W. Kuntz was only about a year old at the time of her father's death. The mother later married Joseph Mitchell and lived in Mocomb. She afterward moved to Ottawa. The mother died in 1908 and is buried in Leipsic.

Five children have been born to Louis W. Kuntz and wife, Charles Edward, Mary, Florence, Hazel and Dorothy.

Mr. Kuntz erected the business block in which the Kuntz store is located, about 1900. This is a substantial two-story brick building. Charles Edward Kuntz, his son, who now operates the store, was born July 25, 1883, in Leipsic, Putnam county. For ten years he was chief clerk in the office of the Nickel Plate railroad, at Leipsic Junction, and resigned that place to take charge of the store, at the time of his father's death. He was married, in August, 1905, to Bessie Sherrard. She was born in Blanchard township, Putnam county, the daughter of Chester and Carrie (Maidlow) Sherrard. Chester Sherrard was born in Blanchard township and a sketch of his life is found elsewhere in this volume.

Louis W. Kuntz was a Republican. At various times he was nominated by his party for county treasurer and county clerk and served on the city council several terms, and also on the school board. He was a member of the school board at the time the new building was erected. Mr. Kuntz was a member of the Presbyterian church, a member of the Masonic fraternity and the Knights of Pythias. He was master of finance in the Knights of Pythias for twenty-five years, holding this office until his death, and was also secretary of the Masonic lodge. He died on June 25, 1912. Mrs. Kuntz owns the store, left by her husband.

Charles Edward Kuntz, the present manager of the store, is a Republican and is now serving as treasurer of Van Buren township. He belongs to the Masonic lodge and the Knights of Pythias. Mrs. Charles E. Kuntz is a

highly educated woman, and very popular in her community. In fact, the whole Kuntz family are popular throughout the county, where they have occupied a prominent place for so many years.

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#### WILLIAM D. STARLING.

An enterprising druggist, of Leipsic, Ohio, is William D. Starling, who has been located in this city since 1901. He started to work in a drug store while still a lad in school and has made this his life work. He not only has a practical knowledge gained from long experience behind the prescription counter, but also has a technical training, which comes from a good college course. As a result, he is a thoroughly competent and efficient pharmacist. He is now a partner in the drug firm of Starling & Buckley, at Leipsic, and has active charge of the store in this city.

William D. Starling, the son of Erastus B. and Alice (Hamilton) Starling, was born at Middle Point, Van Wert county, Ohio, in 1881. His father was born near Oil City, Pennsylvania, in 1857, and is a son of Jonathan and Sarah Starling. His mother was born in Middle Point, Van Wert, Ohio, and is the daughter of John Hamilton and wife. His father is now engaged in the dairy business at Payne, Ohio.

William D. Starling was reared to manhood in Payne, Ohio, and while still in school began to work in a drug store. After leaving school he continued as a drug clerk, but feeling the need of technical training along pharmaceutical lines, became a student in the Northern Normal University at Ada, Ohio, where he took the course in pharmacy. After leaving college, he returned to Payne and remained there until 1901. In that year he came to Leipsic and took a position in the drug store of C. S. Buckley, and, in 1908, became a partner with Mr. Buckley. Mr. Starling now has active charge of the store in Leipsic, Mr. Buckley maintaining his residence at Findlay, Ohio. Their store is well stocked with a complete line of drugs and a varied assortment of druggists' sundries. He enjoys a well-deserved patronage in Leipsic and the surrounding community, and has one of the best and most attractively-arranged drug stores in the county.

Mr. Starling was married in June, 1904, to Mary Archer, who was a native of Guernsey county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Wilson and Margaret (Trott) Archer. Her parents moved to this county while she was still a child and took charge of the Central house, at Leipsic, and they

continued in charge of this hotel until their death. Mr. Starling and his wife have two daughters, Helen and Maxine.

William D. Starling is an active Republican and takes an intelligent interest in political affairs. He is now serving his second term on the city council and always gives his support to such measures as he believes will be for the benefit of the city. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, while fraternally, he is a Free and Accepted Mason and has attained to the Temple degree. He also holds his membership in the Knights of Pythias.

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#### HOWARD C. HUMMON.

A successful business man of Leipsic, Ohio, is Howard C. Hummon, who has spent his whole career of forty-five years in this county. Born and reared on the farm in Liberty township, he has been engaged in the implement business in Leipsic since 1898, and has built up a large business. He has been active in the councils of the Democratic party in his county, and has served with credit as county recorder for two terms. He is an enterprising and public-spirited citizen, deeply alive to the welfare of his community, and in all things stands as a high type of the good American citizen.

Howard C. Hummon, the son of Adam and Nora (Guthrie) Hummon, was born on November 30, 1870, in Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio. His father was born in Riley township, this county, in 1839, and was a son of John Hummon and wife, early settlers in Riley township. John Hummon was of Pennsylvania Dutch descent.

Adam Hummon was a life-long farmer and spent practically all his days in Liberty township. His wife, Nora Guthrie, was born in Monroe township, in this county, and died about 1884. Adam Hummon was at one time the nominee of the Democratic party for county treasurer, having previously served as treasurer of Liberty township. He died in 1902. Three children were born to Adam Hummon and wife: Truman F., deceased; Howard C., of Leipsic, and John E., of Denver, Colorado.

Howard C. Hummon was reared on his father's farm and received his elementary education in the schools of Liberty township. He then became a student in Crawfis College, and later taught school one term in Liberty township. He then engaged in farming, and, after his marriage in 1893, continued in agricultural pursuits for five years. Mr. Hummon sold his

farm of eighty acres in the spring of 1898 and engaged in the implement business at Leipsic, and now deals in all kinds of agricultural implements, buggies and automobiles. He has built up a wide acquaintance throughout the county. By treating all of his customers with uniform fairness and consideration, he has built up a large and lucrative trade. He tries to see that every one of his customers is satisfied, and by his uniform courtesy and honesty in all transactions, has succeeded to an admirable degree in building up his trade.

Mr. Hummon was married in 1893 to Clara C. Miller, who was a native of Blanchard township, and is a daughter of Joseph H. Miller and wife. Her father was born and reared on a farm in Blanchard township, where he spent all of his life. He was a director of the county infirmary for two terms, and died in November, 1913, his wife having passed away several years previously.

Mr. Hummon is a stanch Democrat and has always been active in the councils of his party. He was elected recorder of Putnam county in 1908, and took his office in September of the following year. His first term was so satisfactory that he was renominated and elected for a second term, holding the office until September, 1913. Since that time he has devoted all of his attention to his rapidly-increasing business in Leipsic. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias, while he and his wife are both loyal members of the Lutheran church.

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### FRANK EDGAR CRITCHET.

The village of Belmore, Putnam county, Ohio, has no more enterprising citizen than Frank Edgar Critchet, who has been engaged in business in that place for the past quarter of a century. His parents moved to this county in 1871, where he has lived since that time, having followed farming and public school teaching before engaging in a general mercantile business. In addition to his general store, he is also a funeral director, and has been engaged in the undertaking business at Belmore since 1900. He has been active in the life of the community and filled various official positions with credit to himself and satisfaction to his fellow citizens.

Frank E. Critchet, the son of Andrew Jackson and Mary Ann (Milburn) Critchet, was born in Licking county, Ohio, February 27, 1861. His father was a life-long farmer and also operated a threshing outfit during

the summer seasons for a number of years. The family moved to Putnam county in 1871, and located in the southern part of Van Buren township, where Andrew J. Critchet bought a farm and lived most of the remainder of his life. He died at Belmore, March 7, 1911, at the age of eighty-seven. His wife had died in 1898. Andrew J. Critchet was a member of Company C, Seventy-fifth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, during the Civil War, and served with distinction in that conflict.

Frank E. Critchet was ten years of age when his parents moved from Licking county, Ohio, to Putnam county, and consequently, received his elementary education in those counties. After finishing the common schools of Van Buren township, in Putnam county, he became a student at Crawfis College, and then engaged in public school teaching in Henry county, Ohio, for two years. Mr. Critchet started a grocery store in Belmore in 1890, and has been in business here since that time. He had only one hundred and fifty dollars when he started in the business, but by careful economy and good business judgment, has built up a large and lucrative trade in Belmore and the surrounding country. He now has a general mercantile establishment and handles a general line of goods, such as is found in stores of this kind. He graduated from the Champion College of Embalming at Springfield, Ohio, in 1900, and has been engaged in the embalming and undertaking business at Belmore since that year.

F. E. Critchet is the son of William H., and has charge of the switch-board and lines and is general manager of the Farmers' Mutual Telephone Company in Belmore.

Mr. Critchet was married on February 23, 1887, to Minnie Miley, a steamstress of Belmore, who was a native of Hocking county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Frederick and Catherine (Leffler) Miley. Her parents moved to Putnam county in 1863, and located two miles south of Belmore, where the parents lived until late in life. They spent their declining years in Belmore. Mrs. Critchet's father was trustee for a number of years. He died in March, 1908, and his wife died in October, 1902. Mr. Critchet and his wife have one son, William H.

Mr. Critchet has always supported the Democratic ticket, and for many years has been one of his party's leaders in this county. He served two terms as township assessor and was mayor of Belmore for one term. He helped to organize the annual reunion of former residents of Licking, and has been president of the society for the entire nine years it has existed. These reunions are held annually in Putnam county, and the 1914 meeting

was held on September 10, in a grove one and one-half miles south of Belmore. Mr. Critchet is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, where he and his wife both belong to the Daughters of Rebekah. He has a number of interesting old relics, including an ancient lantern, an old flint-lock muzzle-loading pistol, and old-style grease lamp, and a Bible that was printed in Edinburgh in 1782. Mrs. Critchet has been a dress-maker at Belmore for the past twenty-five years. They are most estimable people and are highly esteemed in the community where they have lived so many years.

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### WILLIAM MARTIN RISSER.

Clearly-defined purpose and consecutive effort in the affairs of life will inevitably result in obtaining a large measure of success. In tracing the career of one who has attained tangible results as the consequence of his own efforts, there comes into view the intrinsic individuality which made such accomplishment possible, that there is found an incentive to inspiration and, at the same time, there is inward a feeling of respect and admiration. The qualities which have made William Martin Risser one of the prominent and successful farmers of Putnam county, have also won for him the esteem of his fellow citizens; for his career has been one of well-directed energy, strong determination, and honorable, straightforward business relations. William Martin Risser is the largest individual cattle feeder in Putnam county and is also a feeder of more hogs every year than any other farmer residing in this county, a distinction of no small consequence in a county that is reputed for its many splendid farms and extensive farmers.

Mr. Risser is well equipped for raising great numbers of cattle and hogs. His main barn is eighty by one hundred and thirty feet, and fifty feet high. His horse stables, feeding room, and cow stables are forty-four by eighty feet; and the cattle feeding space covers an area of eighty-six by eighty feet. All of this is under one roof, to which has been added an adjoining shed, one hundred and thirty by eight feet. This barn was built in 1913, at a cost of approximately eight thousand dollars. Here is to be found room for twenty head of horses, and five milch cows, besides one hundred head of cattle. Mr. Risser also has about thirty-five head of hogs in this barn, and can accommodate a hundred and fifty more. The feed is stored in the upper story, from which it is dropped through five openings to







MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM M. RISSEK.



RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM M. RISSEK.



feed boxes on the ground floor. Around each of these boxes twenty head of cattle can feed. The second barn is one hundred and six by seventy-four feet, and is used exclusively for cattle and hogs. In this barn Mr. Risser can accommodate a hundred head of cattle, and one hundred and fifty head of hogs. William Martin Risser also lives in a large and comfortable residence, consisting of eighteen rooms, and which is equipped with two baths. It has a laundry and a pipe-water plant moved by the pressure system; also a cistern, which holds three hundred and fifty barrels of water. The house is heated by hot water from basement to attic. Mr. Risser's successful operation as a farm manager, and his success during the past twenty years, has been little short of remarkable.

Mr. Risser was born on March 29, 1871, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is a son of David and Margaret (Krohn) Risser. David Risser was born at Derkheim, Bavaria, Germany, April 5, 1840, and is the son of Abraham and Catherine (Vonvennig) Risser. Mr. Risser's mother, who was Margaret Krohn, before her marriage, is the daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Weaver) Krohn, and was born in Butler county, January 5, 1844. At the age of three months she was brought by her parents to Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio.

When a young man, William Martin Risser attended the Kiene district school until he was eighteen years old. He averaged about eight weeks in school each winter, and during the remainder of the time he worked on the farm with his father. Subsequently, he attended the Pandora high school under the tutelage of his brother, George, who was principal of this school. The first year he was in school for seventy days, and the second year he was in school for seventy-two days. Following his work in the Pandora high school, he took a ten-weeks business course at the Ohio Northern University at Ada. On completing this course, he had arrived at the age of twenty-one. Prior to this time, with the exception of the short period he was in school, he had been the mainstay of his father in the management and work on the large farm.

After returning from Ada, he worked for his father for two years without compensation, and then went into partnership with him for the ensuing sixteen years. The first eight years his share of the net profits was ten per cent., and the balance of the sixteen years his share was twenty-per cent.

He rented two hundred and forty-three acres from his father in 1905, upon which he is now engaged in farming for himself under the arrange-

ment made at that time. Mr. Risser attributes his success, as a farmer and stock raiser, to the instruction he has received in the school of hard work, under the expert guidance of his father.

William Martin Risser was married at the age of twenty-four, on November 27, 1895, to Elizabeth Lemley, the daughter of Jacob L. and Sarah Jane (Layton) Lemley. Mrs. Risser was born on August 31, 1875, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. Her father was a native of Morgantown, West Virginia, born on July 10, 1837, and a son of Asa and Elizabeth (Evans) Lemley, both of whom were natives of western Pennsylvania. Mrs. Risser's mother was born on July 10, 1838, close to Morgantown, West Virginia. She is the daughter of Peter A. and Catherine (Liming) Layton, who were natives of West Virginia. Mrs. Risser was one of six children born to her parents. The others were Alice M., Charles, Mary, Katie and Sarah S. Her father and mother came to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1871. They had been married ten years previously, on February 7, 1861.

Mrs. Risser received her education in the common schools of Pandora, and lived with her parents one-half mile north of the town, until she was married.

William Martin Risser is not only the largest individual cattle feeder in Putnam county, but he is, likewise, the largest feeder of hogs. He is considered one of the most progressive farmers in the county and his success has been little short of phenomenal.

Mr. and Mrs. Risser have been the parents of five children. Margaret Jane was born on December 2, 1896. Irene Beatrice was born September 5, 1897. Phyllis Francesca was born on August 24, 1899. David Lemley was born on January 4, 1901. Lillian Elizabeth was born on April 27, 1905.

Mr. Risser is a Democrat. He is now serving his second term as trustee and also his second term as a member of the school board. Both of these offices were conferred upon him with solicitation on his part, which is no small tribute to his career as a citizen, and is evidence of the great esteem in which he is held by his fellow citizens. Mr. Risser is now the secretary and is a member of the board of directors of the Farmers Banking Company, of Pandora, and gives to this business a share of his personal attention. William Martin Risser is a man who is highly respected by his fellow citizens and is honored for his industry, good business management and square dealing.

## HENRY MOENING.

Every nation on the earth has contributed its quota to the population of the United States, but no nation has furnished better citizens for our country than has Germany. Thousands of its best citizens have come to this country and become valuable members of the various communities in which they have settled. Putnam county, Ohio, has attracted many of these citizens and hundreds of their descendants are now living within its borders.

Henry Moening, the son of John Henry and Mary (Recker) Moening, was born on January 1, 1838, on a farm about one and one-half miles south of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, on section 33. His parents were both born in Germany, his father being born in Ausnabruk, and his mother in the same locality.

John Henry Moening was reared in Germany and came to America in the early thirties and located at Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he worked for a year on the Wabash and Erie Canal. His wife, Mary Recker, and her two brothers came across the ocean at the same time, when she cooked for the workmen on the canal. One of her brothers, Louis, lived near Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, and at her brother's home, she and Mr. Moening were married. After their marriage, they moved to the farm where Henry Moening was born, and there John H. Moening and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. They started with a little farm of forty acres, principally covered with forest trees, and by hard work and good management, they have accumulated a farm of three hundred acres.

Henry Moening had a brother, Herman, and a sister, Mary, both of whom are deceased. He was reared on the farm where he was born and lived on this farm continuously for seventy-six years. Being the only child, he inherited his father's farm and made it his home until the fall of 1914, when he retired and moved into Glandorf, where he is now living. He has sold his farm in order that he might not have the burden of caring for it and having it on his hands during his declining years.

Henry Moening was married, in 1859, to Elizabeth Ellerbrock. She was born at Glandorf, in Hanover, Germany, and when six months of age, came with her parents, Theodore and Katherine (Kracht) Ellerbrock, to this county, the family arriving here in 1836. The Ellerbrock family are responsible for the name of the village, Glandorf, in this county, that being their native town in Germany.

Mr. and Mrs. Moening have reared a family of seven children, John,

who married Elizabeth Uphaus and has nine children; Herman, of Putnam county, who married Elizabeth Brockman and has four children living and one deceased; Barney, of Ottawa, who married Theresa Hueve and has five children; Henry, who died at the age of twenty-two; Theodore, who married Matilda Brockman and left five children at his death, April 6, 1914; William, who died at the age of eighteen; Mary, who lives in Glandorf with her father. The mother of these children died on September 16, 1907, at the age of seventy-two.

Five of Mr. Moening's children are married and have families of their own. Here are presented the grandchildren of Mr. Moening: The children of John: Elizabeth, Caroline, Clara, Lucy, Gertrude, John, Frances, Lawrence and Agnes. The children of Herman: Herman, Romanus, Sylvester, Laura and Catherine, deceased. The children of Barney: Veronica, Harry, Joseph, Alfred, Leo and Philomina, who died in infancy. The children of Theodore: Lavina, Adeline, Amanda, Clarence and Hilarius.

Mr. Moening and his family are loyal members of the Catholic church and deeply interested in its welfare and generous contributors to its maintenance. He is a Democrat and, while interested in everything which pertains to good government, has never taken an active part in political affairs. Mr. Moening is one of the grand old pioneers of the county and has always lived a clean and wholesome life, and richly merits the high esteem in which he is held by everyone who knows him.

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### ORREN EUGENE TOWNSEND.

The character of a community is determined, in a large measure, by the lives of a comparatively few of its members. If its moral and intellectual status is good; if, in a social way, it is a pleasant place to reside; if its reputation, as to the integrity of its citizens, has extended to another locality, it will be found that the standards set by the leading business men have been high, and their influence tends to mold the character and shape the lives of those with whom they mingle. In placing the late Orren Eugene Townsend in the front ranks of such men, justice is rendered to a man, universally recognized throughout the locality, long honored by his citizenship as one who stood for all good things. Although a quiet and unassuming man, with no ambition for public position or leadership, he contributed much to the civic and moral advancement of his community. The admirable qualities of head and heart and the straightforward, upright course of his daily life, won



for him the esteem and confidence of the circle in which he moved. Although he is now sleeping the sleep of the just, his influence still lives and his memory is revered, not alone by his widow and children, but by the circle of men and women who knew him and who loved him for his true worth.

Orren Eugene Townsend was born on January 8, 1859, at Bluffton, Ohio. He was the son of Ira M. and Catherine M. (Thompson) Townsend.

Orren Eugene Townsend grew up at Bluffton, attending the public schools of that place and the Ohio Northern University, at Ada, where he obtained a splendid education. After leaving college, Mr. Townsend engaged in the lumber business in Bluffton, and, with his brother and father, conducted a saw-mill until 1887. He then moved to Leipsic, Putnam county, in 1887, and operated a planing-mill at that place until two years before his death, first, with his father, and later, in partnership with John Zahrend and a Mr. Kober. These men did business under the firm name of Leipsic Lumber Company. Mr. Townsend moved to Irvine, Kentucky, in the spring of 1899, where his company had opened a saw-mill along the Kentucky river. Here they were able to get their lumber from the source of supply and to eliminate the middle man. Mr. Townsend died there on May 10, 1901.

Mr. Townsend was a public-spirited citizen and, throughout his life was one of the foremost citizens in the improvement of Leipsic. He was progressive in his work and built one of the handsomest homes in Leipsic. Through his efforts were due the erection of many excellent business buildings, among them the Townsend block, one of the best in the city. He was a faithful husband, a kind father, an obliging neighbor, and a zealous Christian, in the practical sense of the word. Mr. Townsend was a devout member of the Methodist church and, throughout his life, was active in the church and Sunday school.

At his death he was survived by a widow and three children, Leila, Harry and Grace, all of whom live at home with Mrs. Townsend. Harry has a large garage and is in the automobile business.

Mrs. Townsend, before her marriage, was Jennie E. Hall. She married Mr. Townsend, December 16, 1879. She was born at Gilboa, in this county and is the daughter of John F. and Nancy J. (Hoagland) Hall.

John F. Hall was born, at Gilboa, and was the son of Samuel, who was a prominent pioneer citizen of Putnam county. He came to Blanchard township in 1832, from Jackson township, Muskingum county, and was the second settler in that township. The county was then a wilderness, but here he and the Hickerson family, who came with him, lived a week in one cabin till each could raise a small cabin for their respective families. Indians

passed every day and night and sometimes came to the cabin in large crowds to trade. All had to be fed liberally when they came, and some of them would drink seven or eight cups of tea or coffee. This story is told, however, in the historical section of this volume. The first sermon preached in this county was preached in Samuel Hall's cabin, two years after the Halls moved here. Samuel Hall's wife was Martha Wamsley, the daughter of John and Mary (Robinson) Wamsley. Mary Robinson was the daughter of William Robinson, who, at the time of the Indian war, was taken prisoner by Chief Logan and his men and brought to Ohio, where he was kept a prisoner for four months. He moved his family in 1800, including his wife and ten children, all of whom were married and had children of their own, to a place where he had been imprisoned. The family moved at once from Clarksburg, Harrison county, Virginia, upon pack horses, entered a large tract of land on the Muskingum river. Samuel Hall was born in Morgantown, Virginia, in 1803, and at the age of three years, he and his parents came to Licking county, where he was married on April 14, 1824. In the fall of 1831 he selected a farm site in the wilderness, in Blanchard township, comprising one hundred and seventy-five acres. He moved here in the spring of 1832, and in nearly every direction there were no neighbors for twenty miles. His son, John F. Hall, married Nancy Hoagland on May 15, 1857. He died on November 11, 1862, leaving three daughters, Mrs. H. L. Hunter, Mrs. O. E. Townsend and Mrs. John Zahrend. After Mr. Hall's death, his widow married H. J. Call and spent her last years in Bluffton. She was a faithful and conscientious member of the Methodist church and active in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

Reverting to Orren E. Townsend's history, it may be said that his father, Ira M. Townsend, was born on November 19, 1833, in Franklin county, New York and died at Bluffton, Ohio, in January 11, 1911, at the age of seventy-seven. Ira M. Townsend came from an old colonial family of English Puritan stock. His father, Appleton Townsend, was the son of a Revolutionary soldier, who married Roxie Fields, of Franklin county, New York.

When Ira M. Townsend was eight years old he was brought by his parents to Ohio and learned the saddler's trade, in Knox and Hardin counties. He worked at his trade in Bluffton twelve years and located there, in 1852. He was married at Jamestown, New York, October 29, 1852, to Catherine Thompson, a native of New York. He engaged in the milling business in partnership with E. N. Woodford, in 1853, but for one year, however, Mr. Townsend was not actively engaged in business. During the years 1865 and 1866 he engaged in the milling business, in Michigan, and,

after his return to Bluffton, entered the saw-mill business again. This time his mill was blown up by a boiler explosion and after it was rebuilt, fire destroyed it in 1887. He rebuilt it a second time, in 1896, but again it was destroyed by fire. His determination was invincible, and he rebuilt again. He conducted the mill until 1904 and then sold out to the Bluffton Turned Goods Company and continued with this firm, as president of the company, until his death. At the time of his death, Mr. Townsend was the oldest member of his lodge of Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He was a member of the Methodist church from his youth and was always an upright, sincere, Christian man, liberal in his donations and ever willing to help his church and other denominations as well. He was very widely known and a man of sterling character and the qualities of heart which won for him the deep respect and friendship of all with whom he came in contact.

Born of such a father, it is not to be wondered that the late Orren Eugene Townsend was a man known and respected among men. Many of his good traits he inherited from his father, but in preserving these traits he deserves credit for being the worthy son of a good father.

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#### WALTER S. STEVENSON.

One of the younger lawyers of Putnam county, Ohio, is Walter S. Stevenson, who has been engaged in the practice of his profession in this county at Leipsic since 1907. Graduating from the law school in 1904 he was admitted to the bar in the same year and practiced at North Baltimore until he came to Leipsic in April, 1907, to become a member of the law firm of Rower & Stevenson. This firm also deals in insurance, real estate, loans and bonds.

Walter S. Stevenson, the son of Isaiah B. and Mary (Epler) Stevenson, was born in Henry county, Ohio, May 2, 1882. His father was born in Henry county, Ohio, in 1854, and was a son of Enoch G. and Anna (Rader) Stevenson. Enoch G. Stevenson was born in Franklin county, Ohio, south of Columbus, in 1820, and during his youth lived near Columbus Grove in Putnam county, but was married in Henry county. The grandfather of Enoch G. Stevenson came from England where he still remembers seeing his grandfather's uniform and sword. Family tradition says that this grandfather was a colonel in the British army, but was discharged from the service by Lord Howe, because he refused to fight the American colonists.

Isaiah B. Stevenson spent all but the last few years of his life in

Henry county, Ohio on a farm. During twenty-two winters he taught school in that county and thousands of children came under his instructions during that long period. His wife, Mary Epler, was born in Shelby county, Ohio, and was a daughter of Peter and Rachel (Ward) Epler. Peter Epler was native of Shamokin, Pennsylvania, and Rachel Ward was from New Jersey. Her grandfather was in the American Revolution.

Walter S. Stevenson was reared to manhood on his father's farm in Henry county. After finishing the common and high school courses of his county, he became a student in Defiance College, remaining there for one year, when he went to Ada, Ohio, where he spent four years, completing the scientific and law courses in that excellent institution. He received the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Laws degrees, completing his law course in the spring of 1904. In the same spring he was admitted to the practice of law, and hung out his shingle at North Baltimore, Ohio. Here he remained until 1907, when he came to Leipsic to make his permanent home.

Mr. Stevenson was married on April 4, 1905, to Hattie Jaqua, who was born and reared in Hancock county, Ohio, and is a daughter of W. Alfred and Elizabeth (Wilkinson) Jaqua. Her parents have lived near Hamler, Henry county, for a number of years. Her father is a farmer, and has always been engaged in agricultural pursuits. Mr. Stevenson and his wife have three sons, H. Clinton, William A. and Walter K.

Mr. Stevenson is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and the Royal Arch Masons. He is a young man of great energy and ability, and although he has been in this city but a comparatively short time, yet he has already forged to the front at the local bar, and the success which has attended his efforts thus far promises a bright future for him.

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#### GEORGE HENRY BACH.

All of the German citizens, who have made Putnam county their home, have been unusually successful in whatever line of activity they have chosen to engage. George Henry Bach, one of the many farmers of this county who was born in Germany, has accumulated a farm of one hundred and thirty-eight acres in Riley township through his own hard work and good management. While he has been accumulating a comfortable competence for himself and family, he has also taken an active part in the civic



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE H. BACH.



life of the community and has held various official positions, with honor to himself and credit to his fellow citizens.

George Henry Bach, the son of John George and Catherine (Becker) Bach, was born on January 1, 1850, in Bavaria, Germany. His father, who was a son of John Thomas Bach and wife, was born in Bavaria on February 7, 1821, and came to America in January, 1851.

John George Bach was married in Germany and three of his children, including George Henry, were born in the Fatherland. He first settled in New Jersey, and two years later moved with his family to Hancock county, where he located in Arcadia. There he leased a few acres of land, which he cleared for the rental. He later rented a couple of farms and, after about eight years, moved to Van Buren township, Putnam county, Ohio, where he arrived on April 10, 1861. He bought forty acres of farm land, which he cleared, and later added eighty acres more. John Thomas Bach and wife only lived in Ohio about two or three years, and then returned to New Jersey, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Catherine Bach, the wife of John George, died on July 4, 1868, she and her husband having reared a family of eight children, Jacob, Mary, George Henry, Thomas, William, Edward, Eva and Daniel H. Jacob died at the age of ten and Edward died at the age of seven. John George Bach was married the second time to Fredericka Mollenhauer, in 1872, a daughter of Philip Mollenhauer, and to this second union was born one son, Ludwig Berhard.

George Henry Bach was only one year of age when his parents came from Germany to this country. He received his early education in Hancock and Putnam counties, and from his earliest boyhood worked on his father's farm. He remained at his home until he was twenty years of age and then worked for two years in his home neighborhood. He next went to Cleveland and worked for three years in a dairy. He followed this with eight years' work in Iowa. In that state he worked out for four years, and then, with his brother, bought one hundred and thirty-four acres, which he farmed for four years. He then disposed of his interests in the Iowa farm and returned to Putnam county, Ohio, where he bought fifty-five acres near the old home farm. To this he later added thirty-eight acres adjoining, as well as forty-five acres near the village of Townwood. Mr. Bach has been a very successful farmer, has given particular attention to live stock raising, and has a fine herd of Shorthorn and Polled-Durham cattle. This farm is well improved, and under his skillful management, is yielding satisfactory returns, year after year.

Mr. Bach was married on October 16, 1883, to Sarah Catherine Smith, a daughter of Henry and Albertina (Tegler) Smith. She was born near Fostoria, Hancock county, Ohio, October 16, 1856. Her parents were born in Mecklenburg, Germany, and came to America, about 1854, locating immediately in Hancock county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Her father died there, October 4, 1897, at the age of seventy-four years, and her mother passed away, on January 15, 1896, at the age of sixty-seven years and four months. Mr. and Mrs. Smith were the parents of seven children, Sarah Catherine, William Frederick, George Henry, Sophia Louisa, John Wilson, Mary Cordelia, and one who died in infancy. Mr. Bach and his wife are the parents of four children, Cordelia Elvira, Tena Alberta, Viola and Katie L. Tena Alberta, who died on January 16, 1912, left her husband, John W. Miller, with one daughter, Florence Edna. The other three children are single and still living with their parents.

Mr. Bach and his family are loyal members of the Presbyterian church. He has served as trustee of his denomination and is now an elder in the church. He has given his support to the Democratic party and has served on the school board of his township. Mr. Bach is a man of excellent character and is highly esteemed throughout the community where he has made his home for so many years.

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### JOSEPH NIENBERG.

Since 1858, Joseph Nienberg has been a resident of Putnam county, Ohio, and has spent his whole career, in Glandorf, since locating in the county. He learned the tinner's trade when a young man and followed that vocation until he was about thirty-five years of age. Later he engaged in the hardware business, and as he prospered from year to year, added various other departments to his store, until he now has three separate stores in Glandorf. An interesting feature of the success of Mr. Nienberg is the fact that seven of his eight children are partners in the business.

Joseph Nienberg, the son of B. H. and Angela (Sprehe) Herkinhoff-Nienberg, was born in Minster, Auglaize county, Ohio, in 1843. His father was born in Hanover, Germany, and was probably about twenty years of age when he came to America, and located at Minster, in Auglaize county, Ohio.

B. H. Nienberg started in as a farm hand after locating in Auglaize



county, and, after his marriage, engaged in the mercantile business in connection with which he ran a bakery. He was in business in Minster, Ohio, until his death. The wife of B. H. Nienberg was born in Ausnabruk, Germany, and was married in her native land to H. Herkinoff, and came with him to America and located at Minster, where he died, leaving her with two sons, Herman and Frank. To her second marriage, to Mr. Nienberg, were born six children, Mary, Joseph, William, Annie, Agnes and Dine.

Joseph Nienberg was reared, until he was fifteen years of age, in Minster, and there received a good common school education. He came to Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1858 and made his home with his aunt, Mrs. Henry Wedaking. After coming to Glandorf he learned the tinner's trade, and followed it for many years. He went into the tinner business for himself about 1861, to which he added a stock of stoves. He started a dry goods store about 1870, and has operated it ever since. He and Joseph Thome, his brother-in-law, started a hardware store in 1894, which they continued in partnership until 1898, when Mr. Thome died. Mr. Nienberg then continued the business alone until 1909, when he took several of his children into partnership with him. He added a furniture store in 1910, so that the family now have three separate stores in Glandorf, a hardware store, a dry goods and general merchandise establishment, and a furniture store. These stores do a big business in Glandorf, and the surrounding community, and it is safe to say that Mr. Nienberg does more business than any other man in the village. Joseph Nienberg has been twice married. He was first married, in 1866, to Annie C. Kemper, who was born in Glandorf, the daughter of B. H. Kemper and wife. Mr. Kemper was a native of Germany and located in Glandorf about a year after the village was established. He first took a contract to build a part of the old Ohio canal, and after that operated a store in Glandorf and farmed. The first wife of Mr. Nienberg died about fifteen years after her marriage, leaving no children.

Mr. Nienberg married Veronica Thome in 1881. She was a native of Glandorf and is a daughter of Nicholas and Agatha (Bockhold) Thome, early settlers in Glandorf. Her father was a wagonmaker and, in the early days, made cradles for cradling wheat. Mr. and Mrs. Thome spent the remainder of their lives in Glandorf. To the second marriage of Mr. Nienberg have been born seven sons and one daughter, Benjamin A., who married Julia Borman, and has four sons, Carl, Harold, Paul and John; Harry, who first married Frances Smith. and after her death, Dalia Rampe, who is the mother of one son, Walter; Joseph F., who married Maggie Unverferth, and has one daughter, Frances; Edward, who married Clara Geier, and has

two sons, George and Raymond, and four children who are single, Oscar, Mary, Frank and William. The last two boys are twins. All of the children are now partners with their father in business, except Edward, who runs the home farm of eighty-three acres, near Glandorf.

The Nienberg family are all loyal members of the Catholic church at Glandorf, and are interested in its welfare and are generous contributors to its support.

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### AUGUST NARTKER.

For more than two score years, August Nartker has been identified with the history of Putnam county, Ohio, and since 1900, has been in the tile business in Glandorf. His father was a native of Germany and an early settler of Putnam county, Ohio, where he came with his parents in the early history of the county. Mr. Nartker spent his early manhood in a newspaper office, and also farmed a few years before engaging in his present business.

August Nartker, the son of Henry and Thresia (Vorderlandwehr) Nartker, was born in Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, April 8, 1874. His parents reared a family of ten children, four sons and six daughters, Henry, Mrs. Bernardine Winkelman, Mrs. Mary Wishmeyer, of Michigan; Mrs. Anna Schroeder, Frank, August, William (deceased in 1912), Mrs. Minnie Horstman (deceased), Mrs. Emma Maas and Mrs. Lena Fortman.

Henry Nartker was born in Glandorf, Hanover, Germany in 1837 and came to America in his boyhood days with his parents, Theodore Nartker and wife, who located about one and one-half miles west of Glandorf, where he lived the remainder of his life. Thresia Vorderlandwehr, the mother of August Nartker, was born at Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, June 14, 1844, a daughter of Herman and Thresia Vorderlandwehr, who were born, reared and married in Germany, and were early settlers in Putnam county, Ohio. Henry Nartker farmed just west of Glandorf, in this county, all of his life, his death occurring there on March 28, 1909. His widow is still living on the farm at Glandorf, where she has resided ever since her marriage.

August Nartker grew up on his father's farm and at the age of sixteen, began working in newspaper offices. He worked on *Der Demokrat*, at Ottawa, from 1890 to 1896. The next four years were spent on the home farm and in 1900, after his marriage, he went into partnership with

his brother-in-law, W. F. Schroeder, and bought the tile factory of Winkelman & Ellis, at Glandorf, where they have continued this business down to the present time, and have built up a large trade throughout the county. For about ten years they made brick as well as tile, but now are devoting all of their time and attention to the manufacture of tile.

Mr. Nartker was married on October 9, 1900, to Verona Horstman, who was born at Glandorf, and is a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Deeters) Horstman. To this union have been born two children, Mary and Alphonse.

Joseph Horstman, the father of Mrs. Nartker, was born in Glandorf, Germany, and when a young man came to America and located in Cincinnati. He came to Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1872, and married Mary Deeters, who was born at Glandorf, in this county, her father being one of the earliest settlers. Mr. Horstman was a blacksmith at Glandorf, and operated his shop until about seven years ago, when he retired from active life and now lives with his son-in-law, Mr. Nartker.

Mr. Nartker is a Democrat, and has always taken an active interest in the life of his community in every way. He has been a councilman of Glandorf for the past eight years, and has always given his hearty support to every measure which he felt would be of benefit to his village. He and his family are loyal members of the Catholic church at Glandorf, and also hold membership in the St. Paul's and St. John's aid societies.

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### JOHN E. REINMAN.

John E. Reinman is a plain, honest man of affairs who, by correct methods and a strict regard for square dealing, has made his influence felt in Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio. He has won for himself a distinctive prestige in the business circles of this city. Mr. Reinman would be the last man to become the subject of fancy eulogy but, nevertheless, his life presents much that is interesting and valuable and may be studied with profit by the young men of the rising generation. Mr. Reinman is one of those, whose integrity and strength of character stand out as shining examples for young men at the beginning of their careers. He commands the respect of his contemporaries and people know him as one who can be thoroughly depended upon to do just what he promises.

John E. Reinman was born on July 17, 1862, at Tiffin, Ohio, and is the son of Lawrence and Caroline (Youngblood) Reinman. Lawrence Reinman was born in Bavaria and came to America when about twenty-

one years old. He located at Tiffin, and there learned the carpenter's trade, and followed it until 1873 when he moved to New Cleveland, in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio. He then bought a farm just east of New Cleveland and here he lived for about twenty years. At the end of this period he moved to the home of his son, John E., who was then living west of New Cleveland. There he and his wife spent the rest of their lives. He died on January 17, 1910, at the age of eighty-two. Previous to his death his wife died about 1905. Caroline Youngblood was born in Prussia and came to America when eighteen or twenty years old, locating at Tiffin, where she was married. Mr. and Mrs. Reinman were the parents of seven children, Catherine, deceased; Lawrence, of Tiffin, Ohio; Joseph, of New Cleveland; John E., of Ottawa; Mary, the wife of Henry Koch, of New Cleveland; Rose, deceased, and Anna, the wife of John Wischmeyer, of Bryan, Ohio.

John E. Reinman lived at home until he grew up and married. When a young man he learned the carpenter trade with his father, but early in his life began farming. He purchased a farm of seventy acres just west of New Cleveland and lived there until October, 1913, when he purchased a lot and built a residence in Ottawa. Here he has resided since that time. He still owns his farm, however, but now engages in carpentry and building.

Mr. Reinman was married to Rose Kihm in 1888, who was born in Blanchard township and who is the daughter of John and Rose (Lawrence) Kihm. Mrs. Reinman's father was born in Bavaria, Germany, in 1838, and came to America at the age of eight years with his parents, John Peter and Mary Kihm. They settled at New Washington, Ohio, and came to Putnam county about 1856. They were pioneer settlers in Blanchard township and John Kihm was a farmer all of his life. He died on the farm in Blanchard township in 1898. Mr. Kihm's wife, Rose Lawrence, was born at Norwalk, Huron county, Ohio, and was the daughter of John and Mary Lawrence. She lived in Huron county until her marriage and is now living at Leipsic, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Reinman are the parents of two children, Edward J. and Ida Rose. Edward J. married Ida Weot, of Tiffin, Ohio, and lives on his father's farm near New Cleveland and has one boy, Ralph John. Ida Rose is still at home.

For the past seven years, Mr. Reinman has been trustee of Ottawa township. He was a director on the school board for fifteen years. Mr. Reinman is an ardent Democrat and never misses an election. He is one of the best workers for the principles of the Democratic party and the suc-

cess of its candidates to be found in all Putnam county. Mr. Reinman is a natural-born reader of men, and his influence is keenly felt in Ottawa township where he now lives.

The Reinman family are all members of the Catholic church and devout in the faith. As a carpenter and builder, Mr. Reinman is well known and enjoys the confidence of all with whom he has ever had any business dealings.

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### JOHN W. WINKLER.

The whole career of John W. Winkler has been spent in Leipsic, where he was born a half century ago. His father dying when he was about twelve years of age he was thrown upon his own resources, and early in life he began an independent career for himself. When he was twenty-six years of age he started in business in Leipsic and for nearly a quarter of a century has been engaged in the shoe business in that place.

John W. Winkler, the son of John and Mary (Stritt) Winkler, was born in 1865, at West Leipsic, Ohio. John Winkler, Sr., was born in 1839, in Buerstadt, in Hessen Darmstadt, Germany, and came to America when about fifteen years of age with his brothers and located at Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio. As a youth he had learned the shoemaker's trade in his native land and on reaching his maturity in this county he continued in that business, to which he added a general store. At the opening of the Civil War John Winkler, Sr., enlisted in the Ninety-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was seriously wounded at the battle of Stone River. He lived nearly twelve years after the war closed with a minnie ball in his left lung. The bullet lay next to his heart and affected it in such a way that his death ultimately resulted in 1876. It was found out after his death that the lung was rotted away from the effects of the ball and his son, John W., now has the minnie ball as a relic.

John Winkler, Sr., was married in this county to Mary Stritt, a daughter of Benjamin and Maria Stritt. The Stritt family came from Germany, probably before 1850, and settled on a farm south of Ottawa, where Oliver Weaver is now living. There the Stritt family spent the remainder of their days. The first wife of John Winkler, Sr., died when the son, John W., was about four years of age, leaving her husband with three children, John W., Mrs. Mary Pettit, and one who died in infancy, the mother dying at the time the third child was born. After the death of his first wife, John Winkler, Sr., married Louisa Stritt, a sister of his first wife, and to this second

marriage three children were born, Charles A., Louis F., and Mrs. Celia Ward.

John W. Winkler was about thirteen years of age when his father died, and the boy soon began to shift for himself. He started in the shoe business in Leipsic about 1891, and has gradually built up his store and increased his trade in the city and surrounding community. He now carries a large and well-selected stock of boots and shoes, and such sundries as are usually found in shoe stores. He is a man of excellent business judgment and is now numbered among the prosperous business men of Leipsic.

John W. Winkler was married on February 14, 1893, to Josephine B. Phipps, who was born near Monroeville, Allen county, Indiana, and is a daughter of William L. and Hannah (Leonard) Phipps. Her father was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and her mother in Ross county, Ohio. Her father was a stove factory man and came to Belmore, Putnam county, Ohio, with a Mr. Williamson, about 1871, before the village of Belmore was in existence. Mr. Williamson started a stove factory in that place and Mr. Phipps became the foreman and lived at Belmore the remainder of his life. Mrs. Phipps is now living in Leipsic.

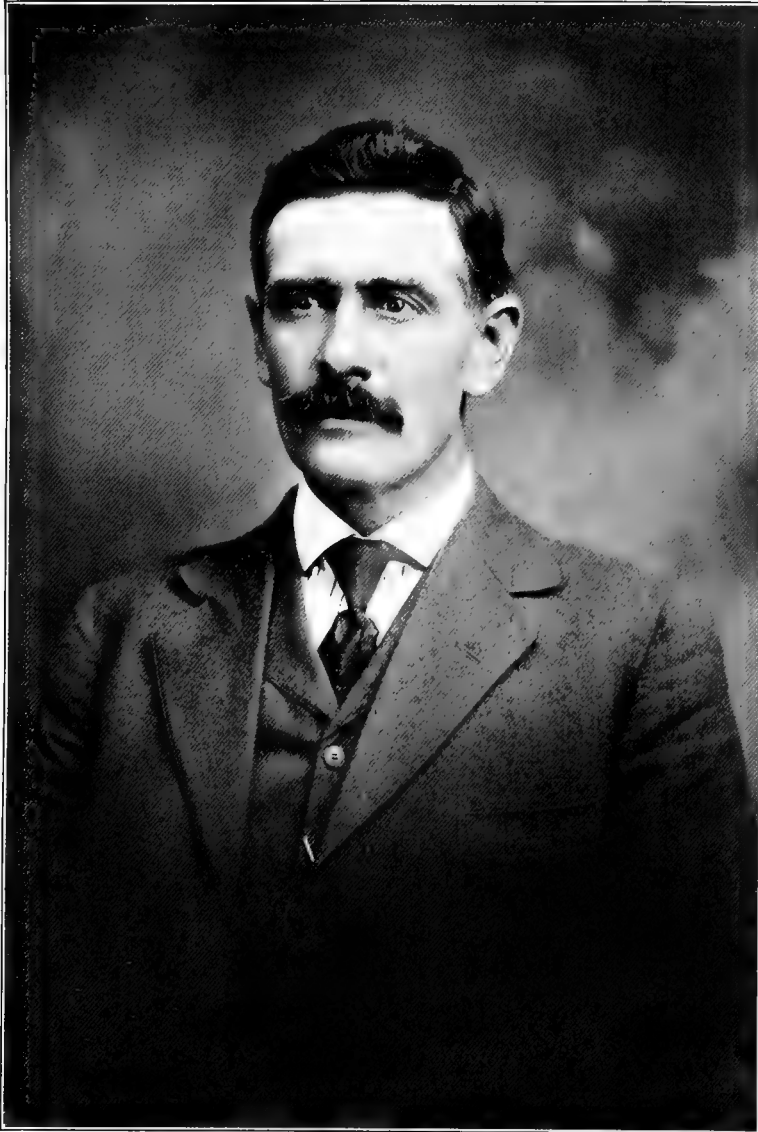
Mr. Winkler is a loyal member of the Catholic church, and a generous contributor to its support. He is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He gives his support to the Democratic party, but has never taken an active part in its councils. He is a man interested in everything pertaining to the advancement of his community, and his support for all public welfare measures is always heartily given.

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#### DAVID C. SHANK.

The standing of any community depends, to a great extent, upon the character of the business men who are a part of it. If a community is so fortunate as to entertain keen and progressive business men, of high integrity, who are thoroughly alive to every opportunity for legitimate business, that community is, inevitably, one of prosperity. In this respect, Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, is fortunate in numbering among its citizens many men of the most up-to-date type, among whom is the subject of this sketch, David C. Shank, president of the D. C. Shank Company, which operates a saw-mill, planing-mill, lumber yard and electric light plant, and who occupies a high place among the foremost citizens of his community.

David C. Shank was born, in Allen county, Ohio, December 8, 1869,



DAVID C. SHANK.





a son of John and Nancy (Culp) Shank. John Shank was born in Mahoning county, formerly Columbiana county, Ohio, December 14, 1836, a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Bear) Shank. Henry Shank was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, October 17, 1808, a son of John Shank and wife, whose maiden name was Wenger. It is said that John Shank once stated that his great-grandfather came from Germany and that the family name was originally Schenk.

John Shank, the subject's great-grandfather, came from Virginia to Ohio, with his family, in 1835. His wife died about fourteen years previous to this time, or when Henry Shank was eleven years of age. John had married a second time, and it was his second wife who migrated to Ohio with him. At the same time there came the subject's grandfather, his brother, Michael, and two sisters, Barbara and Esther. One sister, Annie, had died in Virginia.

David C. Shank's great-grandfather, John, and his grandfather, Henry, were coopers, by trade, and they also owned and operated a farm while in Virginia. John Shank bought a farm in Mahoning county, where he lived until the time of his death, in about 1850.

In the spring of 1840, Henry Shank migrated from Mahoning county to Richland township, Putnam county, later Allen county, and entered one hundred and twenty acres of government land. The deed to the land was signed by President Martin Van Buren, and is yet in the possession of the subject's father, John Shank. The land remained in the possession of Henry Shank and his son, John, until 1913, when it was sold to David W. Basinger and Edward Laibe, the only transfer that had been made since the time the original entry was made.

Henry Shank cleared this virgin land, and built upon it a log cabin. From year to year he succeeded gradually in clearing more of the land, with the help of his father, John Shank, who rendered considerable assistance, as soon as he had reached the age when he could work in the woods. It is said that when a young man, John Shank could wield an axe to better advantage than any other man in the vicinity. Henry Shank lived on his homestead until October 21, 1905, when he died at the ripe old age of ninety-seven.

John Shank was three years old when he came with his parents to Putnam county. He grew to manhood on the home farm and had no chance to go to school until he was eleven years of age. At that time he managed to attend the district school, for a month or two each winter, for a few years. When he was thirty years of age, he married Nancy Culp, December 19, 1867.

a daughter of Christian and Elizabeth (Good) Culp, who was born on January 14, 1845.

Christian Culp, maternal grandfather of David C. Shank, was born in Virginia on March 20, 1815, and settled in Ohio in 1850. He located first in Fairfield county, but later moved to Allen county. Elizabeth Good was born on June 1, 1813, a daughter of Joseph and Magdalene Good. They were both natives of Virginia and came to Ohio in the early days of this county and settled in Fairfield county. Joseph Good died in Fairfield county on February 7, 1848; his wife then came to Allen county, where she lived until the time of her death, at the home of her daughter, Elizabeth (Good) Culp.

After his marriage, John Shank continued to operate his father's farm, and lived there until January 17, 1913, when the farm was sold. To Mr. and Mrs. John Shank were born seven children as follow: David C., the subject; Lizzie A., born on July 20, 1871, the wife of Amos Augsberger; Sophia F., born on October 15, 1873, now the wife of Rufus Basinger; Christian, born on May 14, 1875, who married Rachel Witmer; Emma J., born on August 24, 1877, the wife of Peter W. Amstutz, and who died on January 31, 1904; Mary E., born on June 30, 1879, who is unmarried; Nannie A., who was born on October 2, 1885, and who died May 6, 1893, at the age of seven years, two months and four days.

John Shank conducted the home farm, as a general farm, and also did an extensive business in cattle and hogs. He moved to Pandora, January 17, 1913, after having retired from farming, where he now lives. He and Mrs. Shank are both members of the Mennonite Zion church.

David C. Shank was born on the old homestead, which had been settled by his grandfather, and there grew to manhood. As a boy, he attended the district school, and worked on the home farm until he was twenty-one years of age. He married Fannie Basinger, April 14, 1892, a daughter of Abraham and Catherine (Gratz) Basinger. To this union were born three children, Cora, Eunice and Irma.

Mrs. Shank, wife of David C. Shank, died on February 28, 1901. She was a good Christian character, an affectionate wife, a loving mother, and was an active member of the Mennonite church.

Mr. Shank married again, November 15, 1903, his second wife being Mary Schumacher, who was born on July 24, 1880, a daughter of John and Barbara (Geiger) Schumacher, both of whom were of pioneer families and of Swiss origin. To this union have been born two children, Olive and Alice.

When he was twenty-one years of age, Mr. Shank entered upon an independent business career. His first venture was a saw-mill, in the timber land, a business which he has continued, practically, ever since. He is now president of the D. C. Shank Company, which conducts a saw-mill, planing-mill, lumber yard and electric light plant, in Pandora, Riley township, Putnam county. He is doing an extensive business and is one of the prominent figures in the business life of his community.

Mr. Shank is nominally a member of the Democratic party, but he has always taken an intelligent interest in political matters and is an independent voter, following the dictates of his own judgment, rather than party desires.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Shank are members of the Grace Mennonite church, and are active in church work. Mr. Shank is an energetic and progressive business man of unquestioned integrity, and is highly respected by all who have come in contact with him.

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### AUGUST STECHSCHULTE.

A native of this county and a resident here for more than half a century, August Stechschulte has been prominently identified with the history of Putnam county. Beginning the tailor's trade at the age of seventeen he has made it his life work, and for more than thirty years he has been engaged in the tailoring and clothing business in Leipsic. He has always taken a deep interest in the civic life of his community and has held several township and city offices, with universal satisfaction. He has the unique record of being appointed sergeant-at-arms of the General Assembly of Ohio when he was only twenty-two years of age and it is probable that he is the youngest man who has ever held this position in the state.

August Stechschulte, the son of Henry and Bertha (Kahle) Stechschulte, was born in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1862. His father was born in Glandorf, Germany, in 1825, and came to America in 1833 with his parents and located in Putnam county, in Ottawa township. He arrived in this county about two months after Professor Horstman had settled with his colony of emigrants from Germany.

Henry Stechschulte was about eight years of age when his parents came from Germany to this county, and consequently received part of his education in his native land. After completing his schooling in this county he remained at home until he was grown. He then went to Cincinnati and learned the cooper's trade, and in 1854 was married to Bertha Kahle, who

was born in Greensburg township, in this county, a daughter of I. H. Kahle, whose history elsewhere in this volume gives the main facts concerning the Kahle family. Mr. Kahle was one of the pioneers who came to this county with Professor Horstman in 1833, and walked with the party of emigrants from Detroit to this county and helped to found the village of Glandorf. After his marriage Henry Stechschulte spent the remainder of his life on a farm on the line between Ottawa and Greensburg townships. He died about 1908, his wife having passed away two years earlier. Henry Stechschulte and his wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1904, at which there were forty-five grandchildren present. Six sons and two daughters were born to Henry Stechschulte and wife, Ignatius, who was a former commissioner of this county, and now a resident of Owosso, Michigan; Joseph, a farmer of Union township; Frank, also a farmer living in Union township; August, of Leipsic; Barney, a farmer of Liberty township; Henry A., who is living on the old home farm; Bertha, the widow of William Hoffman, who lives in Pleasant township, and Theresia Klausing, who died on April 1, 1908.

August Stechschulte remained on the farm until he was seventeen years of age and then began to learn the tailor's trade. When he was only twenty-two years of age in 1882 he started in the tailoring and clothing business at Leipsic, and has been in the business continuously since that year. He was sergeant-at-arms of the sixty-sixth General Assembly of Ohio in 1884 and 1885, and filled the duties of this arduous position to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. He has been a life-long Democrat, and has served as township clerk, township treasurer, corporation treasurer and city councilman, and in all of these positions rendered his fellow citizens faithful and efficient service. He takes a genuine interest in the civic life of the community in which he has resided so many years and never fails to give his hearty support to all measures of general welfare.

Mr. Stechschulte was married in 1886 to Anna Rampe, the daughter of William and Thresia (Ellerbrock) Rampe, and to this union have been born four sons and three daughters, Amelia, Adolph, Victor, Clarence, Mary, Agnes and Norbert. Adolph, who married Gertrude Graney, of Columbus, is a partner with his father in the tailoring and clothing business. All of the other children are still single and living at home. Mrs. Stechschulte's father was born in Glandorf, Germany, and was a pioneer shoemaker in Glandorf, in this county. He built up a large industry for a town of this size, at one time having from fifteen to twenty men working under him, making shoes.

Mr. Stechschulte and his family are loyal members of the Catholic church. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, and one of his sons, Victor, is a member of the Society of Jesus. Mr. Stechschulte is a wide-awake, genial and courteous man and is one of the best known citizens of the community.

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### JOHN E. ROOSE.

The present auditor of Putnam county, Ohio, John E. Roose, was born, reared and has been a life-long resident of this county. His father was a pioneer resident and settled here in Jennings township when the land which he entered from the government was covered with a dense growth of timber. Mr. Roose is a man who has been prominently identified with the history of his county for many years. As a young man he taught schools for five years, and followed this with several years in the drug business. Ten more years were spent as cashier of the Peoples Bank at Kalida, while since 1911 he has been the auditor of his county. As a public servant of his fellow citizens, he is now administering the duties of his office in a very efficient and painstaking manner.

John E. Roose, the son of Henry and Elizabeth (Diller) Roose, was born in Jennings township, Putnam county, Ohio, September 4, 1869. His father was born in Mahoning county, Ohio, and came here from Allen county, this state, where he had married Elizabeth Diller. She was a native of Pennsylvania.

Henry Roose and his wife located in Jennings township when it was an unbroken forest. He entered land from the government and started in to make a home for himself and family. He cleared away a large enough space on which to build a rude log cabin and with the assistance of his wife and children as they grew up, he eventually had a farm which provided a comfortable living for the family. Six children were born to Henry Roose and wife, two of whom died in infancy, Barbara, who died in 1912, was the wife of John Lawyer, a farmer of Jennings township; Peter, of Marion, Michigan; George W., a farmer of Jackson township, and John E., who is now living in the county seat.

John E. Roose received his elementary education in the schools of Jennings township, and later attended the Ohio Northern University at Ada, Ohio, for four terms. He then taught school for five years in Sugar Creek and Jennings townships, and gave excellent satisfaction as an instructor of

the youth. He then moved to Kalida, in this county, and engaged in the drug business in that place for several years. After disposing of his drug business he clerked for two years in the stores of Kalida, and then became the cashier of the Peoples Bank, of that place, holding this position for nearly ten years. His worth as a public citizen and the confidence which the people have in his ability is shown by the fact that he was nominated and elected in the fall of 1910 as auditor of Putnam county. He took his office in the spring of 1911, and his services were so satisfactory that he was re-elected by his party in the fall of 1912. He was again a candidate in the fall of 1914 and was elected to serve another term.

Mr. Roose was married in 1892 to Estella C. Conaway. She was born in Putnam county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Basis C. and Rebecca (Moore) Conaway. Her father was a farmer for many years in this county but is now living a retired life in Findlay, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Roose are the parents of seven children, Fred L., Russell, Grace, Ralph, Elbert, Zella and Lucile.

Mr. Roose has always been a Democrat, and has been one of the leaders of his party in township and county affairs. He belongs to the Free and Accepted Masons, and also to the council and chapter. He holds his membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen of America and the Home Guards. He and his family are all loyal members of the Methodist Episcopal church and generous contributors to its support. Mr. Roose is a self-made man and the prosperity which has come to him is the direct result of his own abilities directed along proper lines. He is a man of sterling integrity and no man in the county stands in higher esteem among his fellow citizens.

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#### BERNARD H. HERINGHAUS.

The Heringhaus family are of German descent, the parents of Bernard H. Heringhaus coming to this country from Germany in 1867. Four years later his parents located in Putnam county, Ohio, and lived there the remainder of their lives. Mr. Heringhaus has had fifteen years of newspaper experience, but for the past few years, has been engaged in the furniture and undertaking business in Ottawa.

Bernard H. Heringhaus, the son of Rudolph and Christina (Richter-ing) Heringhaus, was born on March 13, 1879, in Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio. His father was born at Oesede, Hanover, Germany, in 1843, and is

a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Buddlemeyer) Heringhaus. Rudolph Heringhaus came to America in January, 1867, and located in Cincinnati, and on October 9, of the same year he was married in that city to Christina Richtering, who was born in what was Beesten, Hanover, now Kaiserreich, Prussia. She is a daughter of Bernard and Margarite Adelaide (Meerz) Richtering, and was reared in Germany, coming to Cincinnati, Ohio, from her native land in 1866.

Rudolph Heringhaus and wife lived at Cincinnati until 1871, and in that year came to Putnam county, and for three and one-half years lived in Greensburg township, after which time they moved to Ottawa, where they have since resided. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Heringhaus, Anna, Henry, Catherine, Minnie, Bernard H. and Mary. Anna is the wife of Andrew Roof and has three children, Adelaide, Edward and Mary. Henry, who is unmarried, makes his home in Ottawa. Catherine is the wife of George C. Laibe and lives in Akron, Ohio. Minnie is the wife of Frank Distel, of Toledo, Ohio, where she died on June 20, 1912, leaving her husband with two children, Mary and Clara. Mary died at the age of six weeks. He and his family are all loyal members of the Catholic church, while he is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio.

Bernard Heringhaus grew to manhood in Ottawa and before reaching his majority began to learn the printer's trade in the office of *Der Demokrat*. For fifteen years he worked at the newspaper business and became a thorough and practical printer. He then became a partner with Samuel Cartwright in the furniture and undertaking business in Ottawa, and has since continued along this line of endeavor. He went to Cincinnati and learned the embalming business and was licensed as an embalmer on June 20, 1908. Mr. Cartwright remained as his partner less than a year in the business, and was succeeded by F. F. Pope, who, with Mr. Heringhaus, still continues the business.

Mr. Heringhaus has taken a very active part in the civic life of Ottawa. He has served six years as clerk of Ottawa, and served during the time the waterworks was being built. He afterward served for five years as clerk of the waterworks board. He is now a member of the school board of Ottawa, and is also a member of the Putnam county school board. He and his family are loyal members of the Catholic church, and he is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Knights of Ohio.

Mr. Heringhaus was married on October 18, 1904, to Mary A. Laibe, and to this union have been born three sons, Francis, Cornelius and Robert.

Mrs. Heringhaus was born near Gilboa, Putnam county, Ohio, and is

a daughter of Edmund and Magdalene (Kroft) Laibe, both of her parents being natives of this county. Her mother died in 1910, and her father, who was a life-long farmer, is now living a retired life in Ottawa. Edmund Laibe was born in Buffalo, New York, November 7, 1855, and was a son of Mark and Catherine (Benziger) Laibe. His parents came from Belfort, Alsace, France, and lived in Brooklyn, New York, for a short time, before locating in Buffalo. Mark Laibe and his family moved to Putnam county, Ohio, about 1856, and located in Pandora, where he operated a blacksmith shop until 1868. In that year Mark Laibe and his family moved to a farm two and one-half miles south of Gilboa, where he lived until October, 1885, when he moved into Ottawa, where he retired and lived until his death April 8, 1899. His wife died on January 27, 1909. Edmund Laibe grew up on his father's farm and married Mary Magdalene Kroft, a daughter of Joseph and Catherine Kroft, who came from Alsace and settled in Putnam county, Ohio. After Edmund Laibe married he began farming about a mile north of the old home place and lived there until 1889, in which year he moved to Ottawa, where he has since resided. He has a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres in the county. Five children were born to Edmund Laibe and wife, Mary Amelia, the wife of B. H. Heringhaus; William E., George E., Frank F., and Blanche V., the wife of Cornelius H. Ellis.

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#### HENRY GRISMORE.

The biographies of enterprising men, especially of good men, are instructive as guides and are incentives to others. The examples they furnish, of patient purpose and steadfast integrity, strongly illustrates what is in the power of each to accomplish. Some men belong to no exclusive class in life. Apparently insurmountable obstacles have in many instances awakened their dormant faculties and served as a stimulus to carry them to ultimate renown. The instances of success in the face of adversity almost justifies the conclusion that self-reliance, with half a chance, can accomplish any reasonable object. The gentleman, whose life story is here set out, is a man who has lived to good purpose and achieved a splendid success. By a straightforward and commendable course, he has made his way to a respectable position in the world, winning the hearty admiration of the people in his community, and earning the reputation of being a progressive man of affairs, which the public has not been slow to recognize and appreciate.

Henry Grismore, the subject of this sketch, was born on October 24,





HENRY GRISMORE.



1839, in Wayne township, Butler county, Ohio. He is the son of John and Catherine (Weaver) Grismore. John Grismore was born in Burkes county, Pennsylvania, in August, 1812, and was the son of Abraham Grismore and wife.

From all accounts, Abraham Grismore and wife were natives of Pennsylvania. At one time, Abraham was considered a well-to-do man, and was the owner of a linseed oil mill. Before his death, however, he was greatly reduced, financially, on account of having secured the debts of other men, and their failures to meet their obligations. John Grismore and Abraham Grismore, Jr., were the only sons. There were seven daughters. John was but twelve years of age when his father died, leaving his mother with nine children and thirty acres of stony land, which was their only means of support. When a boy, his mother bound him out to a tailor to learn the trade, and when he was twenty-two years old, he came to Ohio, down the Ohio river, to Cincinnati, by boat, landing there with twenty-five cents in his pocket. Being the master of a good trade he proceeded to Lebanon, Ohio, where he had a friend who was a tailor. From here he located at Jacksonboro, Butler county, where he established a tailor shop. It was here that he first met Catherine Weaver, the daughter of Henry Weaver and wife, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania, and a prosperous farmer of Wayne township, Butler county. A part of the town of Jacksonboro was located on Henry Weaver's land.

When John Grismore was twenty-four years old, he was married to Catherine Weaver. In addition to conducting his tailoring business, in the winter and spring, he devoted the summers to his little farm of thirty-seven acres, five miles from Jacksonboro. It was here that three of the children were born. Sarrah died in infancy; Henry is the subject of this sketch, and Mary Ann was the third child. After a residence in Jacksonboro of about ten or eleven years, two years of which were spent on his little farm, he sold out and moved to Riley township, Putnam county, January 13, 1845. It was during the preceding spring that he and Mr. Weaver made a trip to Putnam county on horseback to purchase a farm. John bought sixty-eight acres, two miles south of Pendleton, now Pandora, and Mr. Weaver, a farm north of and adjoining the town of Pendleton. It was on January 13, 1845, after a trip covering five days over muddy roads, a hundred and twenty miles in all, that they arrived at the scene of their new home in three wagons. The last day of the trip they were only able to cover seven miles. There was a hewed log house and round log barn on the place, and probably about five acres of the land cleared. John Grismore worked, clearing his place, during

the summer months, while he followed his trade as a tailor during the winter. After several years, he managed to get his first farm, practically all cleared, and then purchased eighty acres next to his first farm. From time to time he added to his holdings until he had accumulated five hundred and forty-eight acres. After moving to Riley township, there were five children born, making eight in all, six of whom lived to maturity. The last five were, George, Elizabeth, who died at twelve years of age; Harriet, Phoebe and Martin. The last named was killed by a falling tree in the woods when he was thirty-five years old. John Grismore died on December 29, 1899, at the ripe old age of eighty-seven years. His wife, who was born in Butler county, in 1816, died in Richland township, Allen county, in 1880, at the age of sixty-four.

Henry Grismore came with his parents to Putnam county when he was six years old. It was here that he spent his boyhood. His was the life that generally fell to the lot of a pioneer's son. He was thirteen years old before there were any schools in his neighborhood. However, he had learned to read and spell from his mother. The balance of his education consisted of an average of twenty-two days a year, for eight years, in school. He remained at home until he was twenty-two years old. During the spring, following his twenty-second birthday, he went to Ontario and there remained for nearly three years.

It was near Hamburg, Ontario, that Mr. Grismore met and married on January 9, 1866, Francisca Ginther, who had been born in Wurtemberg, Germany. Immediately afterwards he returned to Ohio and settled on a part of his father's place, a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which farm he later bought from his father. Seven years later, in the fall of 1873, he moved to a place of eighty acres, one mile south of Pandora, which he had bought the previous June. He has lived on this place ever since. The place had a substantial frame house for those days, in which he lived for twelve years, or until 1885, when he built a large, handsome, brick residence, of twelve rooms.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Grismore have had eleven children, seven of whom have lived to maturity. John W. married Magdalene Lehman and lives two miles north of Pandora. They have seven children. Cora is the wife of E. J. Miller, who lives one mile north of Pandora. They have two children. Oscar married Elona Day. They live in Los Angeles, California, and have four children. Emma is the wife of Edward Morelock, of Crediton, Ontario. They have three children. Levi married Levina Towsley, and lives one mile southwest of Pandora. They have three children. Otto married Martha Wittich, Brilliant, Ohio. They have two daughters. Carl A. mar-

ried Leah Tripplehorn, and lives on the home place. They have one child, Donald. Mary Ann is the wife of Guy R. Fromm, of Cincinnati. They have one child. Jessie Pearl died at the age of two years. Grover C. is unmarried. He is an instructor in the law school at Ann Arbor, Michigan. Fred married Jennie Kisabeth. They live in Memphis, Tennessee, and have no children.

In addition to his farming, Mr. Grismore owned a mill and elevator, from 1892 to 1900. This mill was located at Pandora. He operated it during the period of his ownership. Henry Grismore has been a most successful farmer and, altogether, owned five hundred and fifty-six acres. At one time he was the largest single taxpayer in Putnam county, having been very successful with hogs and cattle. Lately, Mr. Grismore has disposed of a part of his holdings, but still retains three hundred and thirty-six acres of the finest land in Putnam county. He is a director and treasurer in the Farmers Banking Company, at Pandora, and is known as a successful banker. Mr. Grismore is a Democrat. He served as township trustee for six years, as a supervisor, and was member of the school board for eighteen years. Religiously, he and his wife and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in this church Mr. Grismore has held various offices. Henry Grismore is a man of broad experiences and is counted as one of the best farmers in the county, a good citizen and a true friend. He is a fine type of Christian gentleman, and eminently deserves the esteem and confidence placed in him by his neighbors and fellow citizens.

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### JOHN J. RAMPE.

The Rampe family came to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1872, and for the past forty years have been connected with the advancement of this county along agricultural, commercial and educational lines. John J. Rampe was fourteen years of age when his parents moved to this county, and for the past thirty-five years he has been engaged in business for himself at Ottawa. Starting to learn the shoe trade, as a shoemaker, when he was twelve years of age, he opened a shoe shop of his own, at the age of twenty-one, and sold shoes, which he himself made for a few years. He then put in stock of factory-made shoes, and gradually added other furnishing goods, until he now has the largest store in Ottawa.

John J. Rampe, the son of Barney and Mary (Miller) Rampe, was

born in Covington, Kentucky, September 12, 1859. His father was born in Glandorf, Germany, and his mother, in Haagen, Germany. His parents were married in Covington, Kentucky, and to them were born eight children, seven sons and one daughter, of whom four died in infancy. The other four, are as follows: Louis, who died at Edaville, Iowa, about ten years ago; Fred, who learned the shoemaking trade with his brother, John J., and followed it until his death, on March 9, 1896, at the age of thirty-three; Lizzie, the wife of Joseph Roof, living at Glandorf, and John J., of Ottawa. Fred, the brother of John J., married Mary Smith, of Glandorf, and was the father of five daughters and one son, who, with his widow, are still living.

Barney Rampe was a contractor and lived in Covington, Kentucky, until about 1875, and laid many of the sidewalks in that city. In that year he moved to Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, his son, John J., having preceded the family, coming to this county, when he was twelve years of age, to learn the shoemaker's trade with his uncle, William Rampe, Sr. William Rampe, Sr., had come here in the early history of the county, and was in the shoe business at Glandorf for about fifty years, or until his death, on November 28, 1893. Barney Rampe died in Putnam county, December 6, 1893, and his widow died on October 31, 1899. Barney Rampe and his wife lived in Glandorf, Putnam county, after moving here, and he continued making sidewalks.

John J. Rampe lived in Covington, Kentucky, until he was twelve years of age and obtained all of his schooling in that city. He then came to Putnam county, Ohio, and worked with his uncle, William Rampe, learning the shoemaker's trade. He remained with his uncle until September 17, 1880, when he started in business in Ottawa for himself. On that day his son, the first child, was born. He started a shoe shop at Ottawa and sold only shoes at first, which he made in his own shop. As his trade increased, he added a line of factory-made shoes and gradually increased his business. A few years later he added a stock of clothing, hats and men's furnishing goods of all kinds, and still later put in a line of ladies' clothing, millinery and dry goods. He now has a jewelry department, as well as a full line of groceries. In fact, he now sells everything to wear, from head to foot, for men, women and children. He has the two main floors and part of the upstairs in the McCracken block, to which he moved about ten years ago. He bought back the small building in which he first started on the south side of Main street on June 25, 1912, and in this building he has placed a large stock of carpets, rugs, and linoleums. In the main store he has a large number of departments, and among the conveniences for customers he has

a rest room with a sign above the door saying, "Welcome to our rest room. A cup of coffee free."

The Rampe stores are easily the largest in Ottawa and it is safe to say that he does the largest retail business of any man in the village. He is the only practical shoe man in the business in Ottawa, his training at the trade making him an expert in judging stock. He has killed and skinned the steer, tanned the hide and made the shoes from the leather. Accordingly, he knows the business of shoemaking thoroughly, and this fact has undoubtedly had much to do with his success as a dealer in shoes.

Mr. Rampe was married at the age of twenty to Anna Leopold, the daughter of Barney and Elizabeth Leopold, pioneer settlers of Glandorf, in this county. Mr. Leopold came from Glandorf, Germany, in the early history of the county, and was a storekeeper and stockbuyer at Glandorf. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Rampe, Harry B. and Emma L. Harry B. has charge of the men's department of his father's store, and Emma has charge of the ladies' department. Harry married Lucile Jennings, of Carrs, Kentucky. The first wife of Mr. Rampe died, February 16, 1910, and on January 17, 1914, he married Martha Kerner, who was born in Ottawa, and is the daughter of Philip and Agnes (Maag) Kerner.

Mr. Rampe, with his wife and children, are loyal and devout members of the Catholic church, and are generous contributors to its support. He is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Lima, Ohio. Mr. Rampe is a thorough business man, and by industry and unexcelled business judgment has become one of the most substantial men of the county.

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#### CHARLES A. FERRALL.

It is a well-authenticated fact that success comes as the result of legitimate and well-applied energy, unflagging determination and perseverance in a course of action which one has decided upon. Success was never known to smile upon the idler or dreamer. She never courts the loafer and only those men, who have diligently sought her favor, are crowned with her blessing. It is apparent that the success of Charles A. Ferrall, leading restaurant man of Putnam county, located at Ottawa, has been won by unfailing industry, determination and a fixed will. These qualities have also gained for him the high esteem of the people of Ottawa.

Charles A. Ferrall was born in Gilboa, Putnam county, Ohio, September

20, 1873, the son of John and Louise (Devinney) Ferrall. John Ferrall was born in 1838, and was reared in Blanchard township, Putnam county. He was the eldest son of James and Parthena (Hickerson) Ferrall, who came to this county soon after their marriage and located in Blanchard township. They came from Licking county, Ohio. James Ferrall was the son of John Ferrall, a soldier in the American Revolution.

John Ferrall grew up in Blanchard township. His father was a shoemaker at Gilboa and was an expert at this trade. John Ferrall married Louise Devinney in 1862, who was born in Lancaster, Fairfield county, Ohio, the daughter of John and Anna (Umwake) Devinney. John Devinney was the son of James Devinney, who was a native of France and a soldier in Lafayette's army in the American Revolution. Anna Umwake was one of four children, brought by their parents from Pennsylvania to Fairfield county, Ohio. Louise Devinney lived at Lancaster until ten years of age and then came to Ottawa with her sister, Mrs. Redd and her husband, who moved here in wagons, in 1848. They located about two miles east of Ottawa, south of the Blanchard river, where the old Pierman home is now located. Four years later, Louise Devinney went to live with her half-brother, Jacob Green, who conducted the *Defiance Democrat*, and was probate judge for many years and a man well known in the county. Louise Devinney went to Defiance in order to take advantage of the better schools at that place and, after three years, began teaching. She taught about five years south and southeast of Ottawa until her marriage. John Ferrall was a soldier in the Ninth Ohio Cavalry. He enlisted a short time before his marriage and later re-enlisted. Three of his brothers also served in the Union army. John Ferrall was in the service until the close of the war, Mrs. Ferrall meanwhile staying with her mother who then lived near Columbus Grove. After the war, John Ferrall spent the rest of his life at Gilboa, where he engaged in various lines of business. He died in October, 1885. He was widely known as a genial-tempered man and was marshal of Gilboa for many years. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Mr. and Mrs. Ferrall were the parents of five children, Mary, the wife of George Rennells, of Toledo; Anna, the widow of David Long, who was a lawyer of Ottawa; Charles A., the subject of this sketch; Eliza, the wife of Bert Shondell, a railroader, of Fort Wayne; William, a conductor on the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad, of Lima, Ohio. About two years after Mr. Ferrall died, Mrs. Ferrall moved to Ottawa, where she built a home and where she has resided since that time.

Charles A. Ferrall started a restaurant at his present location just east



of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton tracks on the south side of Main street, about 1903. At that time it was an old frame building. He started in a small way and continued in business with increasing success.

Mr. Ferrall traveled to the Pacific coast to marry in the spring of 1910. He was married at Los Angeles, California, May 5, 1910, to Laura Kraft, who was born on May 5, 1882, at Ottawa, Ohio. She is the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Trame) Kraft.

John Kraft was born on March 25, 1855, a short distance north of Ottawa. He is the son of Joseph and Catherine (Gross) Kraft. Joseph Kraft and wife were natives of Alsace and married there. They came to this country nearly seventy years ago. Joseph Kraft was a farmer and the son of Andrew and Walbruck (Brockmeyer) Kraft, and was born June 3, 1812, settling in this country in 1851. His wife, whom he married in Haucknew, France, April 17, 1842, was also born in Alsace, July 16, 1822. She was the daughter of Joseph and Catherine (Burger) Gross, who came to this country in 1851.

Joseph Kraft and wife settled north of Ottawa and spent the rest of their lives on the farm. John Kraft, their son, married Elizabeth Trame in 1883. Mr. and Mrs. Kraft are the parents of three children living and one dead, Laura Elizabeth, the wife of Mr. Ferrall; Catherine Johanna, the wife of Nicholas Miller, ex-sheriff of Putnam county; Mary Dorothy, who died at the age of four years and three months; and Clarence Edwin, who is at home. Elizabeth Trame was born at Toledo, Ohio, February 25, 1853, the daughter of Christopher and Mary (Brinkman) Trame, both of whom were born and reared in Hanover, Germany, the former on October 30, 1819.

Mrs. Ferrall spent most of her younger life in Ottawa, where she attended the parochial schools and also the Ottawa high school, from which latter school she was graduated at the age of seventeen. She then spent several years in the Meffley dry goods store and two years in Toledo in mercantile business. She then went to Los Angeles to live with her married sister and it was not long after she went to live in Los Angeles that Mr. Ferrall joined her.

After their marriage, Mr. Ferrall came back to Ottawa and, the following October, sold out, expecting to locate in Los Angeles. In February he returned to Ottawa and opened a restaurant in the second room east of where the Ottawa Banking Company is located. In the December following he moved into his present location where a new building had been erected,

and has been in business here ever since. In March, after opening in his new location, he purchased his present home.

Mr. Ferrall is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. For twenty-three years he has been a member of the Ottawa fire department. Mr. and Mrs. Ferrall have two children, Paul Aubrey and Catherine Louise. Mr. Ferrall is a big whole-souled man, fond of hunting, fishing and other clean sports. He is a shrewd and careful buyer and knows how to conduct a good restaurant. Mrs. Ferrall is a woman of charming appearance and socially is popular in Ottawa. Their children are bright, healthy youngsters, of whom their parents are very proud.

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#### ANDERSON JAMES YOUNG.

Ohio was not lacking in loyalty during the dark days of the Civil War when the Ship of State was almost stranded on the rocks of Disunion, but contributed her full quota of brave men to assist in preserving the integrity of the government, prominent among whom was Anderson James Young, now a well-known druggist of Leipsic, Ohio. Loyal to his country in its hour of peril and extremity, as was demonstrated on many bloody battlefields, he has ever been its staunch supporter in times of peace, and today there are few veterans in Putnam county who are more widely and favorably known, and none that can boast of a more honorable record. The ranks of the noble organization to which he belonged in the days of his youth are fast being diminished by the one invincible foe and it is fitting in every publication of this nature that special tribute be paid to those who served through the greatest civil war known to history.

Anderson James Young was born on December 1, 1841, near Tiffin, Ohio. He is the son of Samuel and Isabella (Sutton) Young. Samuel Young was born in Pennsylvania, and came to Seneca county, Ohio, when a young man, settling on a farm. He was a life-long farmer, near Seneca, and was married there to Isabella Sutton, who emigrated with her parents to Seneca county in pioneer days, who were farmers and natives of Pennsylvania. Samuel died on the farm of one hundred and sixty acres where he spent almost his entire life. When he first acquired possession of the farm, it was a wilderness. Under his directing care and by the consequence of his labors, he saw this farm transformed, by the spade and the plow, into a vast

garden. He amassed quite a fortune and, throughout his life, was a careful, frugal farmer.

Anderson James Young left Seneca county, Ohio, for Putnam county, in 1862, and settled in Van Buren township. He lived in that township for a time, when he left for Hancock county. His education was obtained mostly in the common schools of Seneca county and in the high school at Tiffin. After leaving the high school, he entered the Cincinnati School of Pharmacy, from which institution he was graduated. He also attended the Springfield (Ohio) School of Pharmacy, for some time.

Mr. Young enlisted in Company E, Forty-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, as a private, for three years and three months, February 26, 1862, at the age of twenty-three. He was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps, April 10, 1864, by order of the war department, and went to Washington, D. C. He was discharged, after serving three years and three months. He enlisted at Tiffin, Ohio, under Col. William H. Gibson and fought in the battles of the western campaign. He was wounded in the hand at Corinth, Mississippi, and again in the knee at Stone's River. He also fought in the battle of Shiloh.

Mr. Young was married on February 10, 1866, to Mary Foulk, a native of Putnam county, born on May 18, 1842, and the daughter of Peter and Sarah (Heck) Foulk. Peter Foulk was a native of Pennsylvania, born in Starke county and after his marriage to Sarah Heck, came to Hancock county, Ohio, when this county was a vast wilderness. He farmed a short time in Hancock county when he removed to Van Buren township, Putnam county, near Leipsic, where he died on November 21, 1878. He was born on February 27, 1811, and was sixty-seven years old at the time of his death. He was married, in 1834. Sarah Heck was a native of Tuscarawas county, Ohio, and, shortly after her birth, was taken by her parents to Hancock county. Peter Foulk was a man of stalwart frame, of powerful muscular development. He was a man of indomitable courage, which qualities enabled him to brave the perils of pioneer life. Peter Foulk's wife died, about 1871. They had ten children, five of whom are now living, Mrs. Julia Young, of Leipsic; Mary, the wife of Mr. Young; Mrs. Lucinda Fike and Mrs. Emma Baughman, both of Leipsic; and Peter, of Chicago, Illinois.

To Mr. and Mrs. Anderson J. Young, three children have been born, Emma B., born on January 5, 1867, now deceased; Everett J., born on April 20, 1869, and Orville E., born on September 7, 1875, who married Della Scott, and has three children, Harry E., who attends the Ohio State Univer-

sity, Katherine and Helen. He is a rural mail carrier and lives in Leipsic, Ohio.

Mr. Young has two sisters and one brother living, Mrs. Rachel Haynes, of Carey, Ohio; Mrs. Mary Jane Noel, of Terre Haute, Indiana, and Washington, of North Baltimore, Ohio.

After his marriage, Mr. Young returned to Leipsic, Ohio, and entered the drug business. He has continued in this business practically all the time, and is still more or less active. He is a skilled pharmacist, and is widely known. Mr. Young holds the only diploma in the city of Leipsic. He is also a jeweler and learned this trade when a young man. At the present time, Mr. Young holds county and state certificates as a druggist.

Mr. Young is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias, but is not active now. He is a member of Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, at Leipsic, Ohio, and belongs to the State Jewelers' Association. He has always been a stanch Republican. Mrs. Young is a member of the Presbyterian church, at Leipsic. Anderson J. Young is a man who is liberal in his views and who believes in free speech. He is a loyal neighbor, has been an excellent business man, and is honored by the people of his community in which he has so long been a factor for general advancement and improvement.

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#### WILLIAM H. BEGG, M. D.

The parents of William H. Begg, M. D., located in Putnam county, Ohio, in 1857 and lived there the remainder of their days. Doctor Begg was about four years old when his parents came to this county, and has since spent all of his career here with the exception of the time he spent in college. In his younger manhood he taught school for a time, but since graduating from the medical college in 1881, he has been engaged in the active practice of his profession in Columbus Grove. He has always taken a very prominent part in the life of his community and has served many years on the school board of Columbus Grove, and on the state board for the Toledo hospital for the insane. He and his wife have reared an interesting family of three children.

William H. Begg, M. D., the son of William and Jean (Dobbie) Begg, was born in 1853, in Franklin county, Ohio. His parents were both born and reared in Cumberlandshire, Scotland, and were married at Stirling in

their native country. They came to America in 1834, and located at Canal Winchester, Ohio. They had started across the state to reach Cincinnati, but when they reached Canal Winchester, Mrs. Begg took sick with the malarial fever, and they had to stop on that account. They continued to reside in Canal Winchester until 1857, and then moved to Putnam county, where they lived the remainder of their days.

Doctor Begg was four years old on the day his parents finally settled in Putnam county. His father bought property in Columbus Grove and also a farm on the edge of Allen county adjoining Putnam. The family lived about three years in Columbus Grove and then moved to the farm, where Doctor Begg grew to manhood. Early in life he began to teach school and before reaching manhood became a student in the National Normal University at Lebanon, Ohio, where he had for classmates several men who later achieved national fame. He taught school in the country, both before and after attending the university at Lebanon, and was teaching in the high school at Columbus Grove when he decided to pursue a medical course. He resigned his position as high school teacher and entered the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he began his medical studies. Later he became a student in the Medical College of Ohio at Cincinnati and graduated there in the class of 1881.

Immediately after graduating from college, Doctor Begg located in Columbus Grove for the practice of his profession, and here he has been living since that time. He has built up a very large practice and is not only one of the leading practitioners of his county, but also one of the leaders in his profession in the state. He was a member of the school board for eighteen years and refused to serve longer because of his wide range of medical practice. He served for twelve years as a member of the state board which has charge of the hospital for the insane at Toledo, Ohio. He has always taken an active interest in the life of his community and his support could always be relied upon for all public-spirited enterprises.

Doctor Begg was married on September 8, 1881, to Martha M. Kohli, a daughter of Peter and Louisa (Featheringill) Kohli. Her parents were both born in this county where they have lived all of their lives. Mr. Kohli lived in Pandora, where his father kept a hotel.

Doctor Begg and his wife have three children living; Ethel Jean, Russell Stuart and Harold Kohli. Ethel is a graduate of the Western College at Oxford, Ohio, and is now the wife of W. M. Crawford, of Columbus Grove, whose history appears elsewhere in this volume. Russell graduated in 1908 from the engineering department of the University of Michigan, is a

member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity, and is now experimental engineer for the Jeffries Automobile Company, at Kenosha, Wisconsin. He married Lenora Sterling, of Columbus Grove, and has one daughter, Edith Martha. Harold, the youngest child of Doctor and Mrs. Begg, is now in the medical department of Northwestern University at Chicago, and is in his third year. He is taking the course leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Medicine, and intends to make the practice of medicine his life work. He belongs to Phi Delta Theta and the Phi Rho Sigma fraternities.

Doctor Begg is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and has attained to the chapter degree. He is a man of genial personality and has those charming characteristics which always mark the genuine Scotchman. Personally, he is tall and commanding in appearance and it is safe to say that no man in his community is held in higher esteem.

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#### MATHIAS J. FUERST.

The Fuerst family was one of the first to locate in Putnam county, Ohio, the father of Mathias Joseph Fuerst locating in this county several years before the Civil War. Mathias J. Fuerst started out to make his own way in the world when he was fifteen years of age, working for a time for fifty cents a day and paying three dollars and a half for board. He worked at the carriagemaker's trade, and for three years worked in the Brown dry goods store in Ottawa. For the past four years he has been engaged in the agricultural implement business, in partnership with Charles J. Kerner. The firm sells all kinds of agricultural implements, cream separators, gas engines, harness, buggies and various implements and tools used on the farm.

Mathias Joseph Fuerst, the son of Anthony and Otilia (Yerger) Fuerst, was born in Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, January 23, 1864. Anthony Fuerst was born in Monheim, Germany, February 4, 1829, coming to America when a young man, about 1854. He lived for a short time in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, and, after marrying in that state, moved to Columbus, Ohio, where, a few years later he located in Putnam county, on a farm, between Ottawa and Glandorf.

Anthony Fuerst, who is still living in this county, in his eighty-seventh year, has had a very interesting history. In Germany, he learned the mason's trade, and, after coming to America, he continued to follow it. He started

in a very humble way, after coming to America, and for a time worked for fifty cents a day, and actually saved money. When he came to Putnam county, Ohio, with his wife, he bought a small farm, between Ottawa and Glandorf, where he erected a brick house, which is still standing in a good state of preservation. Afterward, he bought another farm, about three miles north of Ottawa, as well as a small tract, just west of the county seat. All of these farms were covered with timber, when he bought them. He continued to follow the trade of a mason, in connection with his farming and other work, and has built most of the large brick buildings in Ottawa, as well as in other towns throughout the county. He built the Catholic church, the old jail, and a large number of the buildings, in the business part of Ottawa. Anthony Fuerst married in Pennsylvania, shortly after coming to this county, Otilia Yerger, who died in 1876, at the age of forty-four, leaving nine children, all of whom are still living, John, born on April 20, 1856; Mary, born on December 28, 1858; Lizzie, born on January 9, 1860; Louise, born on April 4, 1862; Matthew J., born on January 23, 1864; Henry, born on March 13, 1866; Anna, born on January 25, 1868; Regina, born on February 17, 1870, and Frank, born on March 8, 1872. After the death of his first wife, in 1876, Anthony Fuerst married Mrs. Mary Kapel, the widow of Joseph Kapel, and to this second union three children were born, Toney, Theodore and Emma. Toney was killed by a bursting emery wheel; at Lima, Ohio, in 1911. The mother of these three children died about 1909, and after the death of his second wife, Mr. Fuerst lived with his daughter, Elizabeth, until 1913. He is now making his home at Lima, Ohio, with another daughter Mrs. Louise Day.

Mathias J. Fuerst has spent his whole life in Putnam county. He lived at home until he was fifteen years of age, and then started out to work for himself. With four dollars and a half in his pocket, he went to Van Wert, Ohio, to secure work. He did not know a single person in the town of Van Wert, and, after much trouble, finally secured a job in a spoke factory, at fifty cents a day. In view of the fact that his board cost him three dollars and a half a week, he did not hold this position long, and found employment in a hotel, where he worked as a porter for a short time. He was not satisfied with this, and one day started out to walk through the country in order to look for work on a farm. He finally secured a job as a helper to a brick mason, and shortly afterward found a job in the country on a farm, where he worked for two months. He then came to Ottawa, learned the carriagemaker's trade and followed this for eight and a half years. He entered the dry goods store of the Brown Dry Goods Com-

pany in Ottawa, as a clerk, in 1891, and for twenty consecutive years was an efficient salesman in this store. He started in at one dollar a day and saved his money. After becoming an employee of the store, he resigned his position and spent one year in college. Mr. Fuerst and H. C. Hummins opened an implement store in Ottawa in 1911. A year later, Mr. Hummins disposed of his interests in the firm to Charles J. Kerner, and the firm is now known as Fuerst & Kerner. Although they have been in business but a comparatively short time, they are already building up a large trade throughout the county and bid fair to become well established.

Mr. Fuerst was married in 1896 to Ella McGrevy, the daughter of John and Lizzie McGrevy. Mrs. Fuerst was an employe at Brown's dry goods store until her marriage. Two years after their marriage and five days after the birth of a son, Charles Joseph, Mrs. Fuerst died. This son is now attending school in Ottawa. Fifteen years after the death of his first wife, Mr. Fuerst married Cora Ringenbach, a native of Starke county, Ohio, and a resident of Canton, at the time of her marriage. Mr. Fuerst and his wife and son are members of the Catholic church.

Mr. Fuerst has always been identified with the Democratic party, and has served as clerk of Ottawa for four years. Mr. Fuerst is essentially a self-made man and is well deserving of the success which has come to him. He is a quiet and unassuming man and has a host of friends and acquaintances in Ottawa and throughout the county.

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#### LEVI BASINGER.

Within the past twenty years, Levi Basinger, the subject of this sketch, who during all of this time has been assistant cashier of the People's Bank at Columbus Grove, Putnam county, Ohio, has arisen to a position of great prominence and power in this section of Putnam county. During this period, Mr. Basinger has not only become well known as one of the important figures in the Peoples Bank, but he has also achieved a remarkable success as a merchant. Likewise, Mr. Basinger, during this period, has acquired a splendid farm of one hundred and twenty-five acres east of Columbus Grove. In all of this time, however, he has never lost sight of his large duties because of the added power which his wealth and property have given to him. He has performed every civic and social duty and in



the spirit of one who has had the experience, knows that the possession of great wealth is useless unless it is used to good purpose.

Levi Basinger was born on March 29, 1870, near Columbus Grove, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Christian and Regina (Lugilbihll) Basinger, whose family history is to be found in the sketch of William Basinger, also a son of Christian and Regina Basinger, and contained elsewhere in this volume.

Levi Basinger worked hard on the home farm of his father and mother until twenty-one years old, when he took a business course at the Ohio Northern University at Ada. He has been connected with the Peoples Bank, of Columbus Grove, continuously since that time, a period of nearly twenty-five years. Mr. Basinger is a stockholder in the bank and has been assistant cashier from the time the bank was organized in 1891. The Peoples Bank is a flourishing institution and certainly not the least of the credit is due to the sagacity and good business judgment and management of Levi Basinger.

Mr. Basinger also owns a farm east of Columbus Grove, consisting of one hundred and twenty-five acres. It is a splendid farm and Mr. Basinger devotes considerable attention to the details of its operations. Since 1913, he has owned the controlling interest in the Home Industries store, at Columbus Grove. This store does a good business and Mr. Basinger actively controls its management. He purchased the five and ten-cent store at Columbus Grove in August, 1914. This store carries a complete stock of goods usually found in such stores, and also carries other things at a slightly higher cost than five or ten cents.

Mr. Basinger built his present residence in 1904, which is a large modern home erected on Main street, about one block from the business part of town. It is generally considered as one of the very finest residences in Columbus Grove. Here Mr. Basinger and his wife and family live.

Levi Basinger was married shortly after the beginning of his business career, February 22, 1892, to Elizabeth Amstutz, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Christian Amstutz. Mrs. Basinger comes from an old and highly respected family of Putnam county and her marriage to Mr. Basinger has been a most happy one. They have had two children, Catherine and Roswell.

Mr. and Mrs. Levi Basinger are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of Columbus Grove. Levi Basinger is considered a live wire among the younger business men of Columbus Grove. Notwithstanding his busy career, he is extremely courteous in his business and social relations and is popular throughout this section of Putnam county.

## WILLIAM E. DIBBLE.

The venerable gentleman, whose career is here briefly given, is one of the older residents of Leipsic, Van Buren township, Putnam county, Ohio. His life has been such as to win the confidence and good will of the people of his community and to make him well and favorably known throughout Putnam county, of which he has been an honored citizen, for many years. In the highest sense of the term, he is a self-made man and, as such, has met with success. William E. Dibble has a record in life which may be studied with profit by the young men of the rising generation.

William E. Dibble was born twenty-six miles from Rochester, New York, March 5, 1836, and is the son of Orville and Mary Ann (DuBois) Dibble. Orville Dibble was a native of the same county, born on December 17, 1810, the son of Horace Milton Dibble, who, it is said, came from France, and served in the War of 1812.

William E. Dibble was two years old when his father moved to Huron county, Ohio. The family drove through in a wagon and settled in Greenfield township. The family consisted of the father and mother and two children, William E. and a sister, Susan Sayre, who was two years his senior. The family lived on this farm until William E. was thirteen years old and then moved to Norwalk, the county seat, where Mr. Dibble farmed, a mile east of Norwalk. When he first moved to Huron county, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of wild land, one and one-fourth miles, east of where Chicago Junction is now located. After three years, at Norwalk, the family moved between Milan and Monroeville, on the Huron river. Later, Mr. Dibble went to Weston, in Wood county. He farmed, about four years, in Wood county and then crossed into Lucas county, opposite Otsego, on the Indian reserve, where he farmed on the old Tobo farm, which was owned by old Chief Tobo, for about four years. At the end of this period, he moved to Michigan, where he lived about five miles from Adrian. He later moved to Lenawee county, where he and his wife died.

William E. Dibble was married, while the family lived in Lucas county, Ohio, in 1860. He married Martha Jane Taylor, who was born in Lucas county. To this union four children were born, Sidney C., of Leipsic, Ohio; William Wesley, of Leipsic; Grant, who died at the age of six weeks, and Cora, who died at the age of seventeen months.

William E. Dibble remained with his father until past the age of twenty-five years and worked out six months before his marriage. After he had



MRS. MARTHA J. (TAYLOR) DIBBLE.

WILLIAM E. DIBBLE.

MRS. MARTHA J. (O'NEEN) DIBBLE.



been married two years, President Lincoln called for three hundred thousand volunteer soldiers and Mr. Dibble enlisted in Company F, One Hundredth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving under Burnside, Sherman and Schofield. He was with Sherman in the memorable Georgia campaign and was engaged in the siege of Atlanta. After the siege at Knoxville and Atlanta, the army marched to Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee, and later to Louisville, Cincinnati, Washington and Alexandria, Virginia; thence, by ship to the North Carolina coast, up the Cape Fear river to the capture of Wilmington, thence to Greensboro, where Mr. Dibble saw the last fighting of the war. He was mustered out at the close of the war. He was never away from his regiment during the entire war, was never captured, and was not wounded, although he had many narrow escapes.

After the war, Mr. Dibble worked for three years in the grist-mill, in Lucas county, where he began farming in the Maumee river, district above Waterville. He farmed about eight years and then removed to Ottawa county where he worked in a stave factory for about four years. He removed to the south edge of Henry county, one-half mile north of the Putnam county line, in Marion township, at the end of this period, and purchased a tract of timber land of sixty acres. Mr. Dibble cleared this land and made out of it a good farm. He remained there until August, 1912, when he moved to Leipsic, where he still resides. Here Mr. Dibble owns his own home.

Mr. Dibble's first wife died on February 6, 1897; he was married again on March 17, 1904, to Mrs. Martha Jane (Dunlap) Dove, who was born, near Warsaw, in Coshocton county, Ohio, and who is the daughter of David and Sovenia (Meredith) Dunlap. Her parents were both natives of Coshocton county, Ohio, and when she was nine years old, they moved to Utica, Licking county, and lived there the remainder of their lives. Mrs. Dibble married Sylvester Milton Dove, in 1868, and lived at Utica. He died on February 20, 1899. He was a stone mason all his life.

Mr. Dove was a soldier in the Sixteenth Indiana Cavalry and was Grant's orderly for some time, carrying dispatches for him. He was born near Frederick, Maryland, and was the son of William and Annie (Baker) Dove. Mr. Dove was a member of the Christian church. At his death, he left three children living, Levi Elmer, George Alva and Edward Guy. One child, born to this union, died in infancy. Levi Elmer, who is a blacksmith, married Medda Shoefeldt, and lives at Argyle, Michigan. They have had seven children, Nellie, Harry, Martha, Frank, Leone, Melville and Lyle, who was a twin brother of Leone, and is now deceased. George Alva, who is a

mason, married Nora Davis and lives at Auburn, Indiana. They have eight children, Bernice, Eunice, Mabel, Paul, Rolland, Morton, George and Arthur. Edward G., who is a painter and decorator, married Ada Davis, and lives at Utica, Ohio. They have three children, Blanche, Earle and Stanley. Edward G. is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Maccabees.

William E. Dibble is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, the American Flag House and the Betsy Ross Memorial Association. He has always taken an active interest in public affairs and has held several minor offices. He and his wife are members of the Evangelical church. Not only is Mr. Dibble a highly-respected citizen, but he is a man who truly deserves the esteem bestowed upon him by his neighbors and fellow citizens.

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#### WILLIAM P. S. YOUNG.

Specific mention is made of many of the worthy citizens of Putnam county within the pages of this book, citizens who have figured in the growth and development of this favored locality, and whose interests are identified with its every phase of progress, each contributing in his sphere of action to the well-being of the community in which he resides, and to the advancement of its moral and legitimate growth. Among this number is William P. S. Young, the well-known auto liveryman of Leipsic, Ohio.

William P. S. Young was born on July 7, 1858, at Jerry City, Wood county, Ohio. He is a son of William P. and Mary Josephine (Jackman) Young. Mr. Young left Jerry City at the age of one year with his parents, who came to Leipsic, Ohio, and located. He remained in the latter city with his parents until his marriage, in 1881, working with his father in a grist and stave-mill, as engineer, for about five years after his marriage. He then engaged in the grocery business at Ridgeland, Ohio, remaining here about six years, after which he removed to Lima, Ohio, and worked for his uncle, J. B. Jackman, driving a huckster wagon. He remained in Lima for about six years, after which he removed to Holgate, Ohio, where he became a barber. After one year he removed to Ottawa, Ohio, continuing in the same business in the latter city for a year, when he removed to Leipsic, Ohio, where he conducted a barber shop in the Hotel Leffler. He operated this shop for several years, then purchased a brick building, and in it conducted a barber shop for about twelve years. After the death of his wife,

he engaged in the auto livery business, but recently sold out on account of failing health.

Mr. Young was married on July 21, 1881, to Hattie Snyder, who was born at Carey, Wyandot county, Ohio, the daughter of Milligan and Catherine (Fritter) Snyder, the former a native of this country, and the latter, likewise a native of the United States, but her parents were natives of Germany. Mrs. Young died on May 22, 1914. She was a beloved wife and a charming woman, and a most excellent helpmate to her husband. Her loss has been keenly felt by all with whom she was associated.

Mr. Young is a member of the Knights of Columbus No. 1787, at Ottawa, Ohio. He is a Republican, but has never aspired to office and has never been active in the councils of his party. He is a member of the St. Mary's Catholic church at Leipsic, a free and independent thinker, and congenial among his fellows. William P. S. Young is a man widely known throughout Putnam county and bears a splendid reputation.

William P. Young, the father of William P. S. Young, was born on March 25, 1825, in Wayne county, Ohio, and died on October 19, 1899, at the age of seventy-four years, six months and twenty-four days. At the age of twenty-two years, William P. Young was married to Josephine Jackman, in Seneca county, Ohio, on January 31, 1847, to which place he had migrated from Wayne county, his birthplace. Subsequently, he removed, to Wood county, Ohio, where he took up his residence, and where he engaged in the milling business. He built a grist-mill in Jerry City, and lived here for a time. He later moved to Leipsic, Ohio, where he erected the first dwelling house and the first grist-mill in that village, in 1859, and here he lived and engaged in this business for five years. He then moved to Ridgeland, Ohio, in Henry county, where he lived for some time. He also built a mill at Ridgeland, and was postmaster and township treasurer, discharging the duties of the former office for twelve years, and of the latter for eleven years.

William P. Young was married first to Josephine Jackman, who died in 1886, and after her death he married Margaret Vaughn. Subsequently, he removed to a farm in Pleasant Grove, Putnam county, and here the second Mrs. Young died, in 1894. Mr. Young married Sarah Winters in 1895. He was engaged in the milling business for more than thirty-five years, and experienced both success and disappointment.

William P. Young was the father of the following children, born to his first marriage: George Washington, living in Henry county, Ohio; Mrs. Mary Jane Enck, living at Custer, Ohio; John P., a resident of Henry county;

Mrs. Isabella Goodman, of Henry county; Mrs. Sarah Archer, of Holgate, Ohio; William P. S., the immediate subject of this review; Abraham P., of Huber, Hancock county, Ohio; Dora P., of Holgate; Louis P., also a resident of Holgate, and Simon P., of Leipsic.

The late William P. Young abounded in goodness and honesty. He was noted for his charitableness toward the poor, and was very buoyant and kindly disposed toward his fellows. Mr. Young's first wife was a member of the Roman Catholic church, and he permitted her to have her own way in rearing the children, but he, himself, was brought up in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in his earlier years was a member and maintained his sympathies and personal interest toward that church. He was buried at Ridgeland, Ohio, in Young's cemetery, the ground formerly owned and occupied by his saw and stave-mill.

William P. Young was one of a family of eleven children, five of whom are still living, three brothers and two sisters: Mrs. Rachel Haines, of Adrian, Ohio; Washington, of North Baltimore, Ohio; Solomon, of Leipsic; Anderson, also a resident of Leipsic, and Mrs. Mary Jane Nole, of Terre Haute, Indiana.

Thus, for several generations the Young family have been well known in this section of Ohio. They have been noted always for their honesty, their industry and earnest, sincere Christian lives. Such people are always respected in the community where they live and each generation of the Youngs has been highly respected in Putnam county.

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#### JUDGE A. M. HEIDLEBAUGH.

The two most strongly marked characteristics of both the east and west are combined in the citizens of Ohio. The enthusiastic enterprise which overcomes all obstacles and makes possible any undertaking in the comparatively new and vigorous western states, is here tempered by the stable and more careful policy that we have borrowed from our eastern neighbors. The combination is one of unusual force and power. It has been the means of placing this section of the state and country on a par with the older east, at the same time producing a reliability and certainty in business affairs which is frequently lacking in the west. This happy combination of characteristics is possessed to a notable degree by Judge A. M. Heidlebaugh, of Columbus



Grove. He is too well known to the readers of this work to need any formal introduction here. He comes of well-known parentage, and he, himself, has filled and is filling a large place in the affairs of the community. He is a man of strong and alert mentality, deeply interested in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community and is regarded as one of the progressive, enterprising citizens of Putnam county.

Judge A. M. Heidlebaugh was born on November 10, 1864, in Peoria, Illinois, the son of Noah and Rosanna (Mericle) Heidlebaugh. Noah Heidlebaugh was born in Hocking county, Ohio, and was the son of John Heidlebaugh, whose father came from the old country. Rosanna Mericle was the daughter of Solomon Mericle and she was born in Hocking county, Ohio, living there until her marriage. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania. Noah Heidlebaugh was born, reared and married in Hocking county, Ohio. At the beginning of the Civil War, he went to Peoria, Illinois, where he enlisted in the Union army. His wife returned to Hocking county in the meantime and while in camp, Noah Heidlebaugh took the measles. After many years, this caused blindness and for the last ten years of his life he was blind. After returning from the army, he came back to Hocking county, Ohio, and in 1872, moved to Putnam county, locating near what is now Rushmore, in Jennings township. He continued farming in that locality and there spent the remainder of his life, dying in 1893. Noah Heidlebaugh was a man of considerable influence in his community. He served as township clerk and was justice of the peace of Hocking county, Ohio. His widow is still living in Rushmore.

Judge A. M. Heidlebaugh grew up on the farm near Rushmore. At the age of twenty, he began teaching school and after teaching one year, he attended college at Lebanon. After leaving college, he resumed teaching and taught for twenty years in Putnam county. He taught in Jennings, Sugar Creek and Union townships. While teaching, Judge Heidlebaugh purchased a farm in Sugar Creek township and in 1893 he began farming but continued to teach during the winter. He was elected justice of the peace in 1896 and on September 1, 1897, was appointed a member of the county board of school examiners. He had served as justice of the peace six years and was school examiner until February, 1903, when he became probate judge, which compelled his resignation as school examiner. As probate judge, he had the novel experience of appointing his own successor to the board of school examiners. Judge Heidlebaugh served six years as probate judge and retired, in February, 1909. At the close of his services as

judge, he remained in Ottawa about a year and then came to Columbus Grove and purchased an interest in the Exchange Bank of Columbus Grove. This bank was organized as a private bank in 1873 and operated as such until 1914, when it was incorporated as a state bank. The present officers are, Judge A. M. Heidlebaugh, president; W. M. Crawford, cashier, and B. F. Seitz, vice-president. This bank does a large business in the southern part of Putnam county. Since he entered the banking business, Judge Heidlebaugh has devoted his entire time to banking though he still holds his farm in Sugar Creek township.

Judge Heidlebaugh was married to Lydia Deffenbaugh in 1889, who was born in Sugar Creek township, and who is the daughter of Jacob and Mary (Derbyshire) Deffenbaugh. Jacob Deffenbaugh is of Pennsylvania German ancestry and was a native of that state. About 1832 he came with his parents to Putnam county. John Deffenbaugh was county auditor of Putnam county and a well-known and influential man. Jacob Deffenbaugh was a life-long farmer and during the last six or seven years of his life, lived retired in Columbus Grove. He was a justice of the peace and a member of the school board in Sugar Creek township. He died in 1912. His wife was born in Sugar Creek township and was the daughter of Jesse and Lydia (Pierce) Derbyshire. They were early settlers on the farm adjoining the Deffenbaughs. The Derbyshires were of English ancestry and Mrs. Derbyshire was a distant relative of President Franklin Pierce.

Judge and Mrs. Heidlebaugh are the parents of four children, Grace L., who is teaching in the schools of Columbus Grove, and attended college at Defiance, Ohio; Mary M., who attended Oxford and taught two years, now being a student at Oxford; Harold H., who is also at Oxford College; and Nolan Eugene, who is seven years of age and in the second school grade. The three elder children graduated from the high school, Grace at Ottawa, and the other two at Columbus Grove.

Judge Heidlebaugh and wife belong to the Christian church of Sugar Creek township, as do also the three elder children. He is a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Knights of Pythias, also other orders. Judge Heidlebaugh took the degree work in the Patrons of Husbandry. He is a friendly and obliging man, who, despite his personal success, does not forget his larger duty and responsibility to the public. He is naturally a leader in his community and a man whose council is sought in many enterprises, public and private. Judge Heidlebaugh is entitled to rank as one of the best-known and most successful citizens of Putnam county, Ohio.

## WILSON MARTIN CRAWFORD.

The name of Crawford has long been connected with the development and progress of Putnam county, Ohio, and especially the southern half of the county. John M. Crawford, the father of Wilson Martin Crawford, was a man who reflected credit upon the community and county where he lived. The greatness of a community lies not in the machinery of government, nor even in its institutions, but rather in the sterling qualities of the individual citizen, in his capacity for high and unselfish effort, and his devotion to the public welfare. Wilson Martin Crawford, the scion of this well-known family of the same name, in Putnam county, is a clean-cut young business man who is following in the footsteps of a worthy father. Mr. Crawford is not only a master of his business, but he is a leader among men, distinguished for their grasp of business details, organization and management.

Wilson Martin Crawford grew up in Columbus Grove, and was graduated from the high school there. He was born on September 24, 1879, at Columbus Grove, and is a son of John M. and Sarah A. (Martin) Crawford.

After graduating from the Columbus Grove high school, Mr. Crawford attended Northwestern University, at Evanston, Illinois, and was graduated from the academic department in 1902 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Mr. Crawford had a splendid record at the university and was popular with the faculty and with the students. He was what might be called at that time a representative college student.

After his graduation from Northwestern University, he returned to Columbus Grove, Ohio, and until 1905 was employed in the Exchange Bank, at that city, of which his father, John M. Crawford, was president. Mr. Crawford went to Denver, Colorado, in 1905, with the W. E. Moses Land and Realty Company, and remained in that city until the spring of 1907. At that time he returned to Columbus Grove and became the assistant cashier of the Exchange Bank. His brother, W. L. Crawford, was cashier, whose death occurred in March, 1907, and from 1910, Wilson M. Crawford has been cashier of this bank.

Mr. Crawford was married on June 22, 1904, to Ethel Jean Begg, the daughter of Dr. William H. and Martha M. (Kohli) Begg. Mrs. Crawford was born and reared at Columbus Grove, and attended the Western College for Women, at Oxford, Ohio, from which institution she was graduated in 1902, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Mr. and Mrs. Crawford have one daughter, Jean, who was born on June 21, 1913.

Mr. Crawford is identified with the Democratic party, and is now a

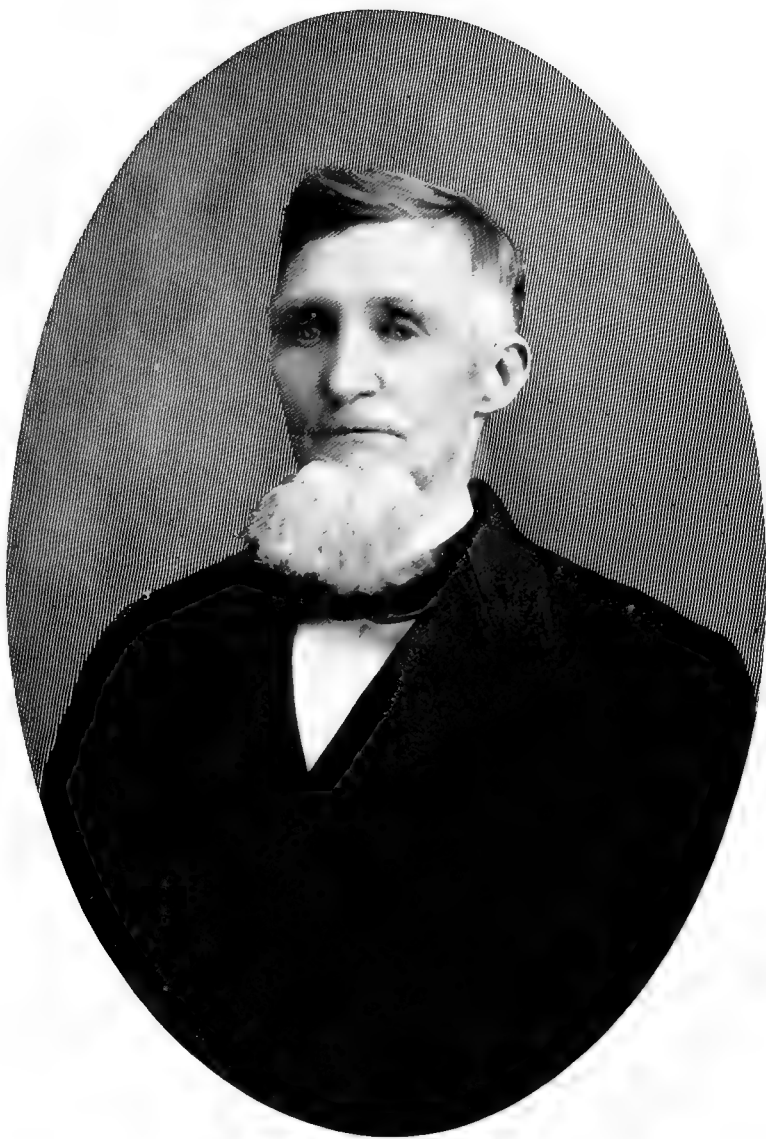
member of the Columbus Grove city council. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and also of the Knights of Pythias. At college he was a member of the National Greek letter fraternity of Phi Delta Theta, one of the oldest of the Greek letter societies in existence. He was also a member of the Deru fraternity. Mr. and Mrs. Crawford are members of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. and Mrs. Crawford have a comfortable and beautiful home in Columbus Grove and are socially popular throughout the south half of Putnam county, where they are both well known. Mr. Crawford is regarded in his community as a young man with the inclination, training and equipment in every way to take the place which his father occupied for so many years in the life of this community, a position of prominence and wise leadership.

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PROF. S. F. DEFORD.

It is the dictate of our nature, no less than of enlightened social policy, to honor those whose lives have contributed, in any way, to the good of their community and their associates. To bedew with affectionate tears the silent urn of departed worth and virtue, and rehearse the noble deeds of the living, has been the commendable custom of all ages and all nations. Prof. S. F. DeFord, the subject of this sketch, is one of nature's true noblemen. In contemplating his estimable qualities, integrity and industry appear as prominent characteristics; an integrity that no personal consideration could swerve and an industry that has no rest while anything remains undone. When a given task was accomplished, he has been in the habit of throwing off all care, retiring to his home and devoting himself to the pursuit of domestic and social enjoyment, for which he has the keenest zest and relish. His temper is calm and equable and his manners are emphatically those of a gentleman, plain and simple, despising sham and pretense of all kinds. His devotion to every duty is intense while his perception of truth and worth is almost intuitive. Although his life has been a busy one, and the private affairs of his home make heavy demands upon his time, he has never allowed it to interfere with his Christian obligations or the faithful performance of his religious duties. Always calm and straightforward, never demonstrative, his life has been a steady effort for the worth of Christian doctrine, the grandeur of Christian principles and the beauty and elevation of Christian character. He has possessed great sympathy for his fellow men and has al-



PROF. S. F. DEFORD.



ways been ready to aid and encourage those who were struggling to aid themselves. Yet, in this, as in everything, he has been entirely unassuming. When he believed he was in the right, nothing could swerve him from it. At the advanced age of seventy-nine years, Professor DeFord demands the respect of all classes of people.

Prof. Samuel F. DeFord is now the vice-president of the First National Bank, of Ottawa, a position he has held since its organization, in 1903, is still active in business affairs. He was born in Carroll county, Ohio, May 2, 1836. He is the son of John and Matilda (Littell) DeFord. The DeFord family is of French-Huguenot origin. Professor DeFord's great-grandfather was John DeFord, who fled under persecution of his sect and found refuge in the state of Maryland, where he lived, as a farmer. He had a son, John, who was born in Maryland, but who lived the greater part of his life in Pennsylvania. Coming to Ohio, in 1799, he entered one thousand acres of land, in Carroll county. At this time he was about forty years of age, but lived to be one hundred and three years old. His wife was Lydia Hopwood, a native of Pennsylvania. John DeFord, Jr., and his wife were the parents of seven children, Harriet, the wife of John H. DeFord; Hannah, Elizabeth, the wife of John Stull, of Augusta, Ohio; John, the father of Prof. Samuel DeFord, who died at the age of eighty-seven; William, who was a prominent farmer and politician of Carroll county, Ohio; Daniel and Nathan B., the latter of Kansas.

John DeFord, the father of Prof. Samuel DeFord, passed his life as a farmer, in Carroll county, Ohio, and served as a justice of the peace thirty-one years. He married Matilda Littell, a French woman, who died, in 1894, at the age of eighty-one. They were the parents of eleven children, Alonzo, a farmer, of Charlottesville, Virginia; William, deceased; Lydia, the wife of William Mosier, of Uniontown, Pennsylvania; Louisa, the wife of James Daniel, of Carrollton, Ohio; Samuel F., the subject of this sketch; John W., of Celina, Ohio; Matilda C., the wife of a Mr. Sweet, of Baltimore county, Maryland; Harriet M., the wife of Rev. John W. Cummings, Doctor of Divinity, of the Presbyterian church at Nankin, Ashland county, Ohio; Mary L., the wife of John Moreland, a farmer of Newark, Indiana; Thomas B., of Carroll county, Ohio; and Hannah, the wife of John Jackman, of Missouri.

Prof. Samuel F. DeFord was reared on the farm. He attended the district schools and, at the age of seventeen years, entered Mount Union College, at Alliance, from which institution he was graduated, in 1858. One year later, he was graduated from the classical course and, two years after that, received the degree of Master of Arts. Professor DeFord taught, dur-

ing the summer months, to assist in paying his way through college. He had charge of the Monongahela schools, for seven months, during 1856. While he was erecting the large school building at Lordstown, Trumbull county, Ohio, in 1858, he was superintendent of the public schools of Newton Falls, that county. Mrs. James A. Garfield, then Lucretia Rudolph, was one of his assistant teachers. Professor DeFord conducted an academy at Lordstown, until 1861, when he took charge of the public schools, at St. Mary's, Ohio. He remained at St. Mary's until 1863, when he was made superintendent of the Celina (Ohio) schools, a position which he held until 1869. He then became superintendent of the Maumee (Ohio) Seminary, for one year, and after that time came to Ottawa, and was superintendent of the public schools, for fifteen consecutive years, or until 1886.

On account of failing health, Professor DeFord became associated with Samuel Slawson, in 1886, in establishing the Exchange Bank, of Ottawa. Mr. DeFord withdrew, in the spring of 1888, and devoted his attention to farming, holding at this time over five hundred acres of land in different parts of Putnam county. He erected a splendid brick building at the corner of Main and Hickory streets, Ottawa, in 1890, and built many dwellings in Ottawa and many Putnam county towns for rental purposes. For many years he was engaged in the real estate and loan business, and was very successful.

Professor DeFord was married on November 5, 1859, to Mary V. Duncan, who was born at Lordstown, Ohio, August 28, 1837, the daughter of Thomas and Susan (Leach) Duncan. Mrs. DeFord is a charter member of the second oldest club in Ohio, which was chartered in 1876. She had always been active in the religious and club life of her county. To this union five children have been born, Clara, who died at the age of three years and eight months; Matilda E., born November 17, 1867, married W. F. Stevens, who is now librarian of the Carnegie library, at Homestead, Pennsylvania, and who was formerly librarian of the Railroad Young Men's Christian Association Library, sustained by Cornelius Vanderbilt. Mrs. Stevens is an active member of the Daughters of the Revolution, and takes a lively interest in civic work, having been instrumental in organizing a number of clubs. The other children are Mary Ann, who married George W. Meffley, a dry goods merchant, of Ottawa, and who is interested in social and civic work, particularly in public libraries; John T., born June 30, 1874, who is a prominent attorney of Minerva, Ohio, and who graduated from Mount Union College and the Cleveland Law School; and Susie F., born in 1881, who married John A. Hunter, now resides in Denver, Colorado. Mrs. Hunter is active



in church work in her home city. She is the mother of one son, John DeFord, who is a student in the Denver public schools.

Samuel F. DeFord is a Democrat. He served three years as county examiner of Mercer county and seventeen years as examiner for Putnam county. He also served as coroner of Putnam county, for two terms, and was president of the school board of Ottawa for many years. He was also a justice of the peace and a member of the Ottawa city council. Professor DeFord is a member of Lodge No. 325, Free and Accepted Masons, and of Ottawa Chapter No. 115, and of Ottawa Council No. 69. He has also been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows since 1857, having joined the order at Newton Falls, Ohio. Professor DeFord is also a member of the Royal Arcanum. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and became a communicant of that church at the age of sixteen. In 1864 he was ordained a minister of the Methodist church.

Throughout his busy life, Professor DeFord has been prominent in the educational, religious and civic life of Ottawa and Putnam counties. He is one of the foremost citizens of Putnam county and his career was founded upon scrupulous honesty and conscientious relations with his fellow citizens. He is undoubtedly one of the representative citizens of Putnam county.

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#### BARNEY HENRY MAAG.

The man whose name appears above is widely known as one of the honored citizens of Putnam county. He has resided here all his life, being a member of one of the leading families in the community and prominently identified with the farming interests throughout this region of country. His well-directed efforts in the practical management of his affairs and his sound judgment, have brought to him a fair measure of prosperity, and in all the relations of his life he has commanded the respect and confidence of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

Barney Henry Maag was born in Pleasant township, this county, March 28, 1881, and is the son of William and Bernardina (Kahli) Maag, whose life-record is given elsewhere in this work under the name of John C. Maag.

Barney Henry Maag spent his youth on his father's farm in this county, Pleasant township, and received his education in the township schools, but was not a regular attendant for the reason that he was obliged to work on

the farm. After remaining with his parents until the age of maturity, he was married on November 27, 1907, to Helena Meyer, daughter of Theodore and Mary Ann (Drerup) Meyer, who was born in Ottawa township, this county. Her father was a native of Germany and came to this county with his parents when he was seven years of age. They first settled in Ottawa township, near the town of Glandorf, this county, where Theodore spent his early days and grew to manhood. Soon after his marriage he bought forty acres of farming land in this neighborhood, to which he added more land, from time to time, until the homestead place contained a total of ninety-five acres. He later bought an additional one hundred acres, which is now occupied by his son, Antoon Meyer, who bought it from his father. Theodore Meyer followed the business of farming throughout his life, and was successful. His death occurred on October 24, 1897, at which time he was in the sixty-fourth year of his age. Mr. Maag's wife's mother was a native of the town of Glandorf, Ohio, where she was born on July 17, 1838, and after living a most devoted, useful and successful life as a helpmate to her husband, during his pioneer and later life, she lived until September 16, 1913, leaving behind her sweet memories of cheerfulness and love for the family that now mourn her loss. To their union were born thirteen children, as follow: Theodore, deceased; Anton, Frank, deceased; Barney, deceased; Joseph, who lives in the state of Michigan; Mrs. Joseph Deters, of Glandorf, Ohio; Mary, who lives in Glandorf, Ohio; August, who lives in Michigan; Mrs. Henry Hagerman, of Delphos, Ohio; Fronia, who lives with Anton; John, of Kalida, Ohio; Helena, subject's wife; and Edward, who lives on the homestead place, in Ottawa township, this county.

After Barney Henry Maag was married, he bought eighty acres, which is a part of the present farm, and subsequently bought twenty acres from his father and another twenty acres which was known as the "Avenish Farm," and adjoined his previous purchases. These holdings give him a total of one hundred and twenty acres, on which he has entirely remodeled or built new buildings, so that today this farm takes on the appearance of a well-kept, thoroughly-productive farm, being the result of unceasing energy, perseverance, and well-directed management. This land required considerable ditching, draining and fencing, before it was entirely suitable for cultivation and stock-raising and today it is considered highly productive and enables the owner to realize a satisfactory profit from his crops and the live stock he feeds. In addition to general farming Mr. Maag takes considerable interest in live stock, particularly in full-blooded horses, and is

the owner of a Percheron-Norman stallion which is valued at a high figure and which is used for breeding purposes.

Mr. Maag does not take an active interest in any fraternal organizations, nor is he active in politics, but has always supported the Democratic party and firmly believes in the progressive principles set forth by that party. He and his family are members of the Catholic church in Glandorf, Ohio, where they are regular attendants and contribute to the support according to their means. Mr. Maag is a member of the Putnam County German Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and, personally, is a man honored and respected by every one in the community that knows him. His acquaintance and friendship is large and socially he is a man well met.

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#### WILLIAM RAMPE.

When Dean Swift gave utterance to that immortal passage in his *Gulliver's Travels*: "And he gave it for his opinion that whoever could make two ears of corn or two blades of grass to grow where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind, and do more essential service to his country than the whole race of politicians put together," he paid the highest possible compliment to that large class of intelligent tillers of the soil whose most earnest endeavors are directed toward the effective cultivation of the lands under their charge and care. Under the scientific direction of the government's department of agriculture and the state's equally well-directed efforts along the same line, the farmers of Putnam county, in the present generation, are literally performing wonders in the way of intelligent, effective agriculture and the public benefactor whom Swift foreshadowed in his imaginative way, has been outdone by many, the crop records of the past in this county not only having been doubled—two ears of corn growing where one grew before—but have been trebled, and more, by the careful tillage which the modern farmer has found so essential to the successful cultivation of his acres. Among these signally successful farmers of this section of the state, none have secured better results than many of those of German birth or ancestry in this county, who not only have brought to their important task the best lessons of intensive farming so carefully followed in the old country, but have applied to all their doings those equally valuable traditions of thrift and prudence, so characteristic of the people of the Fatherland. And among this latter class, few in Putnam county

are better known or more popular among his large circle of acquaintances than is William Rampe, a progressive and successful farmer of Ottawa township, to a brief sketch of whose career the biographer is glad to call attention at this point in this interesting review of the lives of the leading citizens of Putnam county.

William Rampe was born in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, on a farm close to the town of Ottawa, April 27, 1859, the son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Nottingbrock) Rampe, both of whom were natives of Germany.

Joseph Rampe was born in Glandorf, Hanover, Germany, in 1825 and upon reaching manhood's estate immigrated to America, having become convinced that better opportunities awaited him on this side than he might hope to find presented in the old country. He landed in New York and at once entered upon the exercise of his trade, that of a tailor, in which he had become proficient before leaving Germany. In New York he worked at this trade until he had saved enough money to send back to Germany to secure the passage of his mother and three brothers to this country. Upon the arrival of these other members of his family, the Ramples continued for a time to remain in New York, but presently pushed on further west, locating at Covington, Kentucky, across the river from Cincinnati, where Joseph Rampe continued his trade as a tailor. After a sometime residence there, he married Elizabeth Nottingbrock, who was born in Germany, August 27, 1827, daughter of Henry Nottingbrock, who came to America with her parents at the age of seven years and who died on March 12, 1915, at the ripe old age of eighty-seven years, six months and thirteen days. Shortly following this marriage in 1844 Joseph Rampe and his wife joined the German colony in this county, Mrs. Rampe's parents having long been residents of the Glandorf community, where she grew up, and Joseph put in his lot with his father-in-law, with whom he and his wife made their home, helping on the Nottingbrock farm until the death of Mr. Nottingbrock, after which Joseph took charge, gradually paying off the obligations which rested against the Nottingbrock farm, eventually buying the same, which at that time consisted of fifty-three acres. To this he added, as his circumstances grew better, until at the time of his death, at the early age of thirty-seven, in March, 1862, he was the owner of ninety-three acres of well-cultivated land. Joseph Rampe was an industrious man whose ambition was centered in his family and in the hope that their condition in life might be easier than his had been and, at his death, he was sincerely mourned by many in the community in which he had so cheerfully put in his lot. Joseph

and Elizabeth (Nottingbrock) Rampe were the parents of five children, Frank, Henry, two who died in infancy, and William, the immediate subject of this biographical review.

William Rampe spent his boyhood days in Ottawa township, growing up on the homestead farm where he was born. Receiving such schooling as was provided at that period, at the age of sixteen, decided to try his fortunes further afield. With this object in view, he went to Missouri, where for four years he engaged in farming, "working out" to such advantage as might accrue to his labors. Not finding things in that state wholly to his liking, young Rampe returned home and helped on the farm until his marriage, on March 3, 1886, to Anna Catherine Borgelt, daughter of William and Anna (Threasey) Borgelt, who was born on April 29, 1867, on the home place in Ottawa township. An interesting review of the career of the Borgelt family in this county is presented on another page of this volume in the biographical sketch relating to Herman Borgelt, a brother of Mrs. Rampe.

Following his marriage, William Rampe lived for four years in the home of his father-in-law in Ottawa township, assisting in the management of the farm, at the end of which time he bought his present home farm of eighty acres in Pleasant township. This land was all heavily timbered when he bought it at an appraised value of two thousand two hundred dollars. The farm at that time was undrained, there being no outlets for ditches and, in bringing his place to its present excellent state of cultivation, Mr. Rampe incurred an indebtedness of three thousand two hundred dollars, which he has regarded as a good investment. By hard work and close application he has made a good farm of his timber tract, clearing, ditching and otherwise improving the same, and has a good house and all necessary out-buildings. He is now regarded as one of the most prosperous farmers in his neighborhood.

To William and Anna Catherine (Borgelt) Rampe were born two children, Joseph Edward, an ambitious young farmer of Sugar Creek township, who married Emma Buckradd and has three children, Raymond, Anna Louisa Francisco and Ruth, and William Sylvester, who died at the age of **ten months**.

The Ramples are members of the Catholic church at Glandorf and are devoted to the best interests of that parish, being also active in such other good works as concern most intimately their immediate neighborhood and are very properly held as among the leading people of that section of the county. Mr. Rampe is a Republican, having cast his first vote for President Garfield, and takes an intelligent interest in local politics, though he

never has been included among the office-seeking class. He is a member of the Order of the Reindeer, belonging to Ottawa Lodge No. 516, and takes an active interest in the affairs of that fraternal organization. He is a jolly companion, a kind and loving husband and father, a lover of children, essentially a "home man," and bears a high reputation in his community because of his honesty, frankness and sincerity in all his relations with his fellow men.

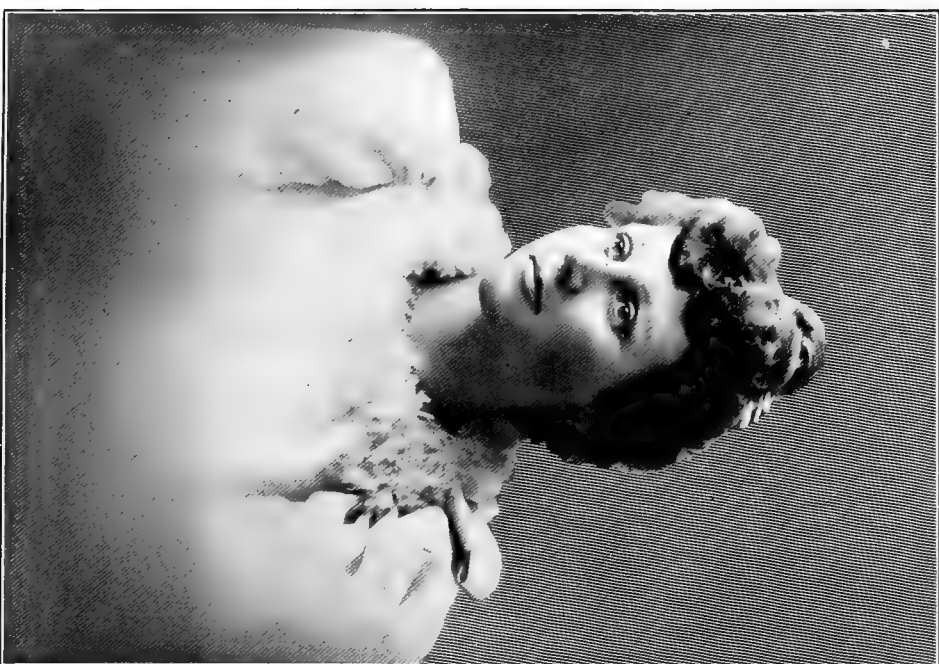
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### JOHN W. HALKER.

One of the best known citizens of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, is John W. Halker. His whole career of more than three score years has been spent within this county. His father came here in 1843 from Glandorf, Germany, located in Union township, and made this county his home the remainder of his life. Mr. Halker began business for himself in 1881, in Glandorf, and has since made this village his home. He has always taken a very active part in the upbuilding of his community.

John W. Halker, the treasurer of the Glandorf Building & Loan Association, was born in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, February 3, 1854. He is a son of H. W. and Catherine (Beucher) Halker. His father was a native of Glandorf, Germany, and came to this country when he was about thirty years of age, locating in Putnam county in 1843, on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres. He improved this farm and made it his home until 1860, when he moved to Glandorf and engaged in the grocery and saloon business, until his death, August 18, 1890, at the age of seventy-seven. H. W. Halker was married in this county to Catherine Beucher, who was born not far from Glandorf, Hanover, Germany, and died at Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, in February, 1897. There were seven children born to H. W. Halker and wife, Mary, who died in January, 1891, the wife of Henry Nolte, of Delphos, Ohio; David, of Ottawa; John W., of Glandorf; Catherine, living in Glandorf, Ohio; Matthew; Aggie, the wife of Lawrence Bohn, of Toledo, Ohio; Henry, who died in 1906, having survived his wife, who now lives in Glandorf.

John W. Halker was educated in the schools of Glandorf, and finished his education in Cincinnati. He began business for himself in 1881 by opening a grocery and saloon in Glandorf, and continued in this business, successfully, until 1903, when he disposed of it to his brother, Henry. Mr. Halker helped organize the Glandorf German Building & Loan Association in 1887,



MR. AND MRS. JOHN W. WALKER.





and since its organization has been an official, serving as appraiser, a member of the finance committee, treasurer and president. He is also secretary of the Glandorf German Mutual Insurance Association. In addition to this, he is interested in agriculture, and owns considerable land in the vicinity of Glandorf, besides his beautiful home and other property in the village. He has long been one of the leaders in his county and is a man of unquestioned integrity. For four years he served as treasurer of his township, and for twenty-five years was treasurer of the St. John's Benevolent Society, severing his connection with this society in November, 1913. He has been active in the councils of the Democratic party of Putnam county, and has been one of its leaders for many years. He is of a sociable disposition and is well known and universally liked throughout the county. He is a broad-minded and progressive man, and has always been foremost in promoting enterprises which were calculated to benefit his home town or the public at large.

Mr. Halker was married on October 10, 1894, to Lizzie Franke, who was born and reared in Glandorf, and is a daughter of Frederick and Catherine (Ellerbrock) Franke.

Frederick Franke, the father of Mrs. Halker, was born about three miles from Essen, Saxony, Germany, in 1843, and is a son of Ernest Franke. After his mother's death he was brought to America by his father when he was five years of age. Ernest Franke was a blacksmith and operated a shop in Palmer township, on the edge of the prairie, at a time when wolves and other dangerous beasts were still roaming the forests. Ernest Franke was a fine workman and was an expert cutlerymaker. He died when Frederick was about nine years of age at which time the boy was bound out until he was eighteen. At the opening of the Civil War, Frederick Franke enlisted in Company D, Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war. After his return he finished learning the shoemaker's trade and became a fine workman. He went to Cincinnati and worked at his trade for three years, in the meantime attending night school. While in that city, he also learned to be a stationary engineer, and upon returning to Putnam county he became the engineer at the woolen mills in Glandorf for several years. However, this close confinement was undermining his health, when he became an agent for the Singer Sewing Machine Company and worked for them for fifteen years, at the expiration of which time he resigned his position with this company and became the manager of the lumber yard in Glandorf, retaining this position for ten years. He bought a share in a lumber and planing mill at Kalida in 1907 and two years later was

injured by a machine in the mill and was compelled to retire from active work. He is now making his home at Kalida. Catherine Ellerbrock, the wife of Frederick Franke, was born at Glandorf, and is a daughter of Dietrich Ellerbrock and wife. Her people came from Hanover, Germany, in 1834, and located at Glandorf, in Putnam county, among the very first settlers.

Mr. and Mrs. Halker are consistent members of the St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf, and are deeply interested in its welfare, being generous contributors to its support, always punctual in their fulfillment of church duties.

Mrs. Halker's many activities brought her in touch with kind and loving friends. In accord with her husband's interests, she was a devoted helpmeet, a faithful wife and an inspiration to those who knew her. She died in March, 1915.

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### AMOS WILBUR BEST.

Amos Wilbur Best, one of the leading farmers of Union township, was born in the same township, on the farm on which he still lives, October 26, 1869, the son of John Calvin and Sarah A. (Nichols) Best, the former of whom was born in Rose township, Carroll county, Ohio, December 16, 1841, the son of George and Sarah (Wagner) Best, the latter of whom was born in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, March 22, 1841, the daughter of Edward and Margaret (Erwin) Nichols.

George Best, grandfather of the immediate subject of this sketch, was the son of John Best and was a life-long farmer. He was reared on the farm in Rose township, Carroll county, Ohio, on which he was born and acquired such schooling as was provided in that period. He was a stone cutter, a brick mason and a carpenter, which trades he followed in the neighborhood in which he was reared. George Best was united in marriage to Sarah Wagner in 1840, who was born in Rose township, Carroll county, Ohio, the daughter of Jacob and Margaret (Durst) Wagner, both of whom were born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, the latter being of Irish parentage, her brother, James, having been a soldier in the Mexican War.

Four years after their marriage, or in the year 1844, George Best and his wife and their two small children came to Putnam county and settled in Sugar Creek township, buying a tract of land which then was an utter wilderness of unbroken forest. This farm, in due course of time, was brought to a high state of cultivation and here George Best and his wife

reared their family and spent the rest of their lives, his death occurring in May, 1874, at the age of fifty-four years, his wife surviving him many years, her death not occurring until in May, 1897. He was a staunch Democrat, took an active part in the political affairs of the county, and had served his township several times in various capacities in public office. He was a member of the Lutheran church, while his wife was a member of the Christian church, and both were ever active in the good works of the community.

To George and Sarah (Wagner) Best were born nine children, John Calvin, to whom reference is made below; Mary A., deceased, was the wife of David Hughes, of Macon county, Missouri; Sarah A., deceased, was the wife of George Holderman, of Newton, Kansas; Emeline, deceased, was the wife of Quincy Goodman, also now deceased, of Columbus Grove, Ohio; Anne, the wife of Sherman Hubert, of Dupont, this county; Jane, the wife of Lenial Sneary, living near Vaughnsville, in Sugar Creek township, this county; Ella, the wife of William E. Nichols, of Grove Hill, Paulding county, Ohio; Arie R., the wife of Hendon Catlett, of Detroit, Michigan, and one child who died in infancy.

John Calvin Best was born in Carroll county, Ohio, and came to Putnam county with his parents at the age of three years. In the schools of Sugar Creek township he received his education and was reared a farmer and carpenter. When little more than a boy, on August 12, 1862, he enlisted in Company D, One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war. He took part in the battles of Moss Creek, Buzzard Roost, Resaca, Lost Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta, Duck River, Franklin, Nashville, Fort Anderson and numerous others, and during the latter part of the war, having been injured, was detailed as clerk in the quartermaster's department, under General Schofield, where he received his discharge at White Hall, Pennsylvania, in 1865.

John Calvin Best was united in marriage on January 16, 1868, with Sarah A. Nichols, of Union township, this county, whose father was a native of Licking county, Ohio, and one of the earliest settlers in Putnam county. Further details of the genealogy of Mrs. Best may be found in the biographical sketch of her brother, Amos Nichols, of Union township, presented elsewhere in this volume. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Best lived for four years on a farm in Sugar Creek township and, in 1873, moved to their present farm in Union township. Here they originally had two hundred acres, which was reduced to its present extent of one hundred and twenty acres by the sale of forty acres and the gift to their son of another forty. The line between Sugar Creek and Union township divides this farm,

which is regarded as one of the best in that part of the county. John Calvin Best is a good farmer and is one of the substantial members of the community. Mr. Best is a staunch Democrat, as was his father before him, and for many years has been regarded as one of the leaders of that party in his section of the county. He has been township trustee and a member of the county board of agriculture, besides which he has held minor township offices. He and the members of his family are members of the Christian church. He is a member of Ogilvie Post, No. 64, Grand Army of the Republic.

To John Calvin and Sarah A. (Nichols) Best were born four children, Amos W., the immediate subject of this sketch; Alfred, a farmer of Union township, now deceased; Mrs. Sarah A. Streeter, deceased, and John E., a farmer of Union township, who married Daisy Miller and has one child, Sarah Eveline.

Amos Wilber Best, eldest son of John Calvin and Sarah A. (Nichols) Best was educated in the schools of his native township and was reared a farmer, remaining on the paternal farm until his marriage, at the age of twenty-nine, when he moved to the farm on which he now lives and where he has engaged in general farming with success. Mr. Best is a Democrat and takes an interest in political affairs, but is not included in the office-seeking class.

Amos Wilber Best was united in marriage on April 21, 1898, to Mary E. McCrate, daughter of Joseph McCrate, a member of one of the old families of this county, additional details of whose genealogy may be found in the biographical sketch of Edward L. McCrate, a brother of Mrs. Best, which is presented elsewhere in this volume. To the union of Amos Wilber and Mary E. (McCrate) Best, three children have been born, Gerald Pierce, Lawrence, and one who died in infancy. Gerald Pierce Best recently attained a notable bit of distinction by being one of the prize winners in the boys' corn-growing contest in this county, which not only secured to him the award of the prize offered by the William Kahle bank, at Ottawa, but secured for him a place in the delegation of Ohio boy corn growers which was sent to Washington under the state auspices and which received such signal attention at the hands of the President and the department of agriculture. He raised a fraction over one-half bushel more than one hundred and twenty-two bushels of corn on one acre of land on his father's farm, exercising in this fine agricultural exploit a degree of judgment and a knowledge of scientific farming which marked him as a youth of unusual parts. He is a very bright young man and was selected as one of the delegates representing

the boy corn growers of the country to the Panama-Pacific Exposition, at San Francisco.

Mr. and Mrs. Best have a fine home on the main road to Kalida and take an active part in the social affairs of the neighborhood. They are both members of Ben Hur Lodge at Columbus Grove. Mrs. Best, before her marriage, was one of the leading school teachers in Putnam county, having taught for many years in the district schools. She is a member of the Catholic church at Columbus Grove and is a highly-educated woman. They have one of the good farms in the county, both in the matter of its soil as well as location, and are very pleasantly and comfortably situated.

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### AMOS C. DILLER.

Whether the elements of success in life are innate attributes of the individual or whether they are quickened by a process of circumstantial development, it is impossible clearly to determine. The study of a successful life, whatever the field of endeavor, is none the less interesting and profitable by reason of the existence of this uncertainty. So much in excess of those successes in life are the failures and semi-failures that one is compelled to examine and analyze to find proximate causes. In studying the life history of Amos C. Diller, former school teacher and now a successful tile manufacturer and farmer, as well as poultry fancier, we find many qualities in his make-up that win success. For many years, Mr. Diller was a successful teacher in the schools of Putnam county. Subsequently, he became an enterprising farmer, and, during these years, he has looked after the details of several business enterprises, including a tile factory, and has finally devoted a considerable amount of time to fancy poultry, with which he has also been successful.

Amos C. Diller was born on June 21, 1871, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of John G. and Elizabeth (Schumacher) Diller. John G. Diller was also born in Riley township, February 21, 1841, the son of Peter and Barbara (Suter) Diller. Peter Diller was born about 1813, in Alsace-Lorraine, and was the son of Christian Diller and wife, the former of whom was a farmer.

Peter Diller came to America at the age of fourteen with his mother and elder brother, John, the father having previously died. They arrived in America about 1827, and settled first in Holmes county, but some time

later came to Putnam county. They settled in Riley township, where Peter Diller entered one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 26. This became the old Diller homestead. He later added other lands until he owned three hundred and twenty acres.

When Peter Diller settled in Putnam county, he was unmarried. He first entered his land, built a log cabin, and, about a year later, was married to Barbara Suter. He took up his residence on the new homestead when all of his worldly goods consisted of one horse and a wagon and a few supplies with which to begin his battle with the wilderness. His were the common experiences of the pioneers. He and his wife suffered all of the privations and hardships incident to such life. He was compelled to go either to Perrysburg or Tiffin to mill, such trips taking several days. Peter Diller and wife had eight children, six sons and two daughters, all of whom lived to maturity, with the exception of one son, Christian, who died at the age of sixteen years. They were Christian, Adam, John, Magdalena, Benjamin, Peter, Mary and David.

John G. Diller, the father of Amos C., grew up on the old homestead. He attended the typical log cabin school, and helped his father clear the land. When he was ten years old, his father built the house which still stands. Two years later, in 1853, he built the barn which is also in a splendid state of preservation.

When John G. Diller was twenty-seven years old, he was married to Elizabeth Schumacher, the wedding taking place on March 14, 1868. She was born on March 15, 1848, in Richland township, Allen county, and who is the daughter of John and Barbara (Steiner) Schumacher. John Schumacher was the brother of Peter Schumacher, who was the father of sixteen children, among whom was Christian P., the life-story of whom is told elsewhere in this volume. After his marriage, John G. Diller remained on the old place. He took a trip to California for his health and died there on March 7, 1908. He led a very active life and was engaged as a general farmer, having been quite successful in this vocation. He was a Democrat and served as school director for a number of years. He was a member of the Mennonite church. John G. Diller and wife had nine children, the eldest of whom died in infancy. The others were William, Amos, Bertha, Levina, Noah, Lena, Elmer and Sarah, all of whom are now living and all married except Bertha. Mrs. John G. Diller died on April 1, 1881.

Amos C. Diller was born on the old homestead of his father and grandfather and here grew to manhood. He first attended the old district school, No. 6, and later district No. 10. After finishing the common schools,

he took three terms of work at the Tri-State Normal School, at Angola, Indiana, and then attended the Bluffton high school the next winter. The following winter he taught school and the summer following this had special normal work in Findlay College. After this, for about ten years, he continued teaching, and then took a teacher's summer course at Bluffton College, after which he taught again. Altogether, Mr. Diller taught ten years.

When twenty-seven years old, he was married to Lena Schumacher, the marriage taking place on September 25, 1898. She was born on January 24, 1875, in Richland township, Allen county, and is the daughter of John and Barbara (Geiger) Schumacher. John Schumacher was a son of Christian Schumacher. He was one of the strongest men, physically, in this part of the state. He was born on August 5, 1849, and died on November 7, 1907. His wife, who was Barbara Geiger before her marriage, was born on October 1, 1855, and died May 3, 1897. They had thirteen children, Lena, Susan, Mary, Peter, Elias, Gideon, Lizzie, Jesse, Salome, Martha, John Adam and Minnis, the two latter being deceased.

Amos C. Diller continued to teach for four years after his marriage and then located on the farm of David Diller, which was originally a part of Peter Diller's estate, and which Amos C. Diller purchased from Ferdinand Reichenbach. This farm he still owns and here he lives today.

In addition to farming, Mr. Diller has been engaged in the manufacture of tile for about twenty years, being associated with his uncle, Benjamin Diller, and his brother, William. This concern does a large and lucrative business, and for the past eight years Amos C. Diller has owned and operated this business alone.

In addition to his other activities, Mr. Diller is an expert breeder of Rose Comb Rhode Island Red poultry. He has taken first prize on this breed at Bluffton, Lima, Findlay, Delphos, Pandora and at the Ohio State Poultry exhibit at Columbus. In addition to these prizes, many of Mr. Diller's birds have taken prizes for their owners at other places.

Amos C. Diller is a stockholder and president of the Jenera Merchandise Company, of Jenera, Ohio. He is also a stockholder and secretary of the D. C. Shank Company, of Pandora, Ohio, and is treasurer of the Menonite Mutual Aid Society and Insurance Company.

To Mr. and Mrs. Amos C. Diller, seven children have been born, Orlo, born on August 23, 1899; Bessie, born on September 4, 1902; Edna, born on April 15, 1904; Edison, born on May 26, 1905; Jennie, born on July 14, 1906; Ray, born on April 15, 1911, and Lester, born on August 27, 1913.

Mr. Diller is a Democrat. He is one of Riley township's most interest-

ing and successful citizens, an aggressive and alert business man, a successful farmer and a well-informed and valuable citizen. He and his wife and family are members of the Mennonite church.

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### JAMES MACDONALD.

Putnam county has many residents who have prospered in business. One of her citizens, who has made a notable success in the lumber business, is James MacDonald, who is thoroughly acquainted with his line of business, from the ground up, which fact undoubtedly accounts for much of his success.

James MacDonald was born on February 23, 1873, in Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio, the son of William John and Margaret (McKeen) MacDonald. William J. MacDonald was born in the parish of Killyman, County Tyrone, Ireland, in 1839. His father in turn came from Scotland and was a soldier in the British army, serving in South Africa. By reason of his services as a soldier, he became the possessor of a tract of land in Ireland, and made his home there. W. J. MacDonald was probably twenty-five years of age when he came to America and located at Cleveland, Ohio. He was married in Belfast, Ireland, to Margaret McKeen, a native of Carmoney, near Belfast, County Antrim, a daughter of James and Elizabeth (Roberts) McKeen. She lived in Ireland until after her marriage, and before they came to America, one daughter was born, now the wife of I. Pressley Sherrard, living on the MacDonald farm at the north edge of Leipsic.

Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald lived in Cleveland from 1865 until 1871, where he followed his trade as a bricklayer and stonemason. He came to Putnam county in 1871, and purchased twenty acres of land at the north edge of Leipsic, where he has resided since. Here he continued at his trade and contracted for a number of years. He had a part in the erection of most of the larger brick buildings in Leipsic. While at work on the Methodist church in 1895 he met with an accident in which several bones were broken, which weakened him so that he was compelled to relinquish his life work.

Five children were born to William J. MacDonald and wife, Mrs. Minnie Sherrard, a resident of this county; William J., of Liberty township; George W., a contractor, who died at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1911; Alexander, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and James, of Leipsic. The mother of these







MR. AND MRS. JAMES MAC DONALD.



RESIDENCE OF JAMES MAC DONALD.



children died on August 4, 1914, at the age of eighty-three. She was an active supporter of the Presbyterian church, as was her husband. W. J. MacDonald was a charter member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Leipsic, and died December 11, 1914, at his home in Leipsic.

James MacDonald grew up at Leipsic and learned bricklaying and stone-cutting with his brother. He worked at the trade about fifteen years, during which time he engaged in contracting. He continued in that capacity until 1908. He also engaged in the retail builders' supply business at Leipsic about the year 1899. He opened up a lumber yard at Leipsic in 1905. With it he combined a line of builders' supplies, and has since continued in that business. Mr. MacDonald has been conspicuously successful and does a very large business in his line.

He built one of the handsomest brick residences in 1912 in Leipsic, where he now resides. Mr. MacDonald was married on May 3, 1893, to Capitola Isabelle Close. She was born between Gilboa and Benton Ridge, in the west part of Hancock county, Ohio, the daughter of Solomon Markley and Sarah Elizabeth (Kindle) Close. Solomon Close was born in October, 1834, in Putnam county, not far from Bluffton, and was a son of Michael and Jane Close. Solomon Close was a farmer until he reached old age and lived part of the time between Gilboa and Benton Ridge. He later moved to Van Buren township, in this county, and now lives in West Leipsic. He was a soldier in the Civil War, a member of Company G, One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served for three and one-half years. He was never wounded nor in a hospital. He is now a member of the Post of the Grand Army of the Republic at Leipsic, in which fraternal order he takes a great interest.

Mrs. MacDonald grew to womanhood in Putnam county. To James MacDonald and wife eight children were born, three of whom died in infancy. The five living children are Florence Menetta, Lawrence James, Serge R. C., Vivian Beatrice and Evelyn Rose.

Mr. MacDonald is a staunch adherent of the Republican party, but takes no active interest in political affairs, preferring rather to devote all his time and attention to his extensive business interests. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias, while Mrs. MacDonald is a member of the Pythian Sisters. Both Mr. MacDonald and his wife are loyal and earnest members of the Presbyterian church, in whose welfare they are deeply interested, and to whose support they are liberal contributors. They are highly respected citizens of their community, enjoying the esteem of a large number of neighbors and friends.

## JOHN THEODORE MOENING.

Among the best-remembered successful farmers of the past generation in Putnam county was the late John Theodore Moening. Of this man it may be said that he possessed strong and active sympathies; his temperament was warm and ardent, his feelings deep and intense, and these and other characteristics unconsciously drew him an unusual number of devoted friends, upon whom, under all circumstances, he could rely, and who, now that he has passed away from earthly scenes, revere his memory. He was a close student of human nature and comprehended with little effort, the motives and purposes of men, and he was a lover of truth and sincerity. In brief, he is remembered as a manly man, of pleasing but dignified presence, a student of many subjects and an influential man in the circles in which he moved. Of sound character and unflagging energy, he stood as a conspicuous example of the well-developed American, and his position as one of the community's representative citizens was conceded by all who knew him.

John Theodore Moening was born in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, September 2, 1867, and was the son of Henry and Elizabeth (Ellerbrock) Moening, whose life history is given elsewhere in this work, under the caption, "Henry Moening."

Mr. Moening remained on his father's farm near Glandorf, Ohio, and received his education in the neighboring schools. At the age of twenty-two he was married to Matilda Brockman, which event occurred on November 19, 1889. His wife was the daughter of Joseph and Caroline (Lamvehr) Brockman and was born in Fort Jennings, Putnam county, Ohio. Her father was a native of Assurbrick, which is not far from Glandorf, Germany, and came to this country alone when a very young man. Having acquired a thorough knowledge of the carpenter's trade in Germany and believing there were good opportunities for a man of his ability in the city of Cincinnati, Ohio, he first went there, but later decided to go to Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, where he farmed for a while and did some carpenter work, then removed to Fort Jennings, this county, where he was employed to build the St. Joseph's Catholic church and which was started in 1852. After completing this work he retired from active work in the carpenter line and went to live on a small tract near town, which he farmed in a small way until the time of his death in 1896, in the eighty-second year of his age. He was a Democrat, but took no active part in these affairs. He was a devout member of the St. Joseph's Catholic church. His wife, Caroline

(Lamvehr) Brockman, was a native of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, and was born on September 25, 1845. She is now residing on the homestead place, near Fort Jennings, this county, and at the present time is in the seventy-ninth year of her age. To their union were born eight children as follows: Joseph, of Fort Jennings; Caroline (Mrs. Reavie), of Ottawa township, this county; Henry, of Dayton, Ohio; Elizabeth (Mrs. Moening), of Glandorf, Ohio; Mary (Mrs. Westfelt), of Kalida, Ohio; Matilda, wife of our subject; Lewis, who resides on the old homestead near Fort Jennings, and Christena, deceased; Josephine (Mrs. Helcamp), of Ft. Jennings, was a daughter by a former marriage.

After the marriage of John T. Moening and wife, he went to live on his farm, which consisted of eighty-two acres, and continued to live on this place until the time of his death, April 6, 1914. When he bought this tract, there were but forty acres of clear land and the rest of it was in heavy timber. A great deal of his time was occupied in clearing the place, ditching, draining and fencing, and today this place is considered one of the most productive small farms in this section. When Mr. Moening was a young man of eighteen he took a great deal of interest in threshing machinery, and having bought himself an outfit of this kind he proceeded to go about the county threshing for the farmers and thus gained a wide acquaintance and was generally known to be absolutely upright and fair in his dealings, and had the respect and high esteem of everyone who knew him. The direct cause of his death was cancer of the liver, from which he was a quiet and patient sufferer. His attending physician constantly warned him of the danger and repeatedly told him that he had but a short time to live, nevertheless he kept the true facts, pertaining to his condition, from his wife and family and always appeared before them with such a cheerful manner that they little suspected his grave physical condition.

To Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Moening were born five children, as follow: Levina (Mrs. Louis Schroeder), who lives on a farm in Pleasant township, this county; Adaline (Mrs. Arnold Schroeder) who lives in Pleasant township and has a son, Harold; Amanda, Clarence and Hilerious, who live at home with their mother.

Mr. Moening was not an aggressive politician in his day, but at one time was a member of the board of school directors. He was a Democrat and at all times stood for the progressive methods proposed by that party. The entire family were regular members of the Catholic church and Mr. Moening was a member of the board of church trustees for four years.

Personally, he was a man of broad ideas and ever alert to lend any assistance he could toward all meritorious propositions that purported to be to the best interests of the community, and on account of his wide acquaintance and familiar figure in important gatherings, his death will always be keenly felt by every one who knew him.

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### JOHN W. MEYER.

One of the best-known young farmers and stock dealers in Putnam county is John W. Meyer, whose attractive place in Union township is the subject of admiring attention on the part of travelers on the highway which leads past the place, and whose stable of full-blooded Belgian horses is known far and near throughout the county. Mr. Meyer is one of the younger generation of farmers who are taking advantage of all the latest research along agricultural lines and in consequence has one of the best-kept and most productive small farms in his part of the county. He is alert in all that pertains to his business, for he is a farmer who looks upon farming as a real business and not a mere haphazard strewing of grain, and holds a high place in his community. His progressive methods certainly entitle him to mention among the men of enterprise in Putnam county and the biographer finds pleasure in presenting, at this point, a brief outline of the salient points in his career.

John W. Meyer was born in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, on Christmas Day, 1887, a son of John B. and Catherine (Smith) Meyer, both of whom were born in Ottawa township, in the same county.

John B. Meyer, who is now living a retired life in the city of Ottawa, the county seat of Putnam county, is the son of George Meyer, a former well-known and influential farmer of Union township, this county, who came to this country from Germany, first settling on a farm near Glandorf, this county, where he married and where his children were born, and where he lived until the death of his wife, after which he bought a farm in Union township, the place at present owned and occupied by his son-in-law, Joseph Unverfurth, where he spent the rest of his life. George Meyer and his wife were the parents of the following children: John B., Joseph, Elizabeth, Theresa, Katherine and Caroline, all of whom were brought up in the Catholic faith.

John B. Meyer was reared on the paternal farm and was educated in



the nearby school at Glandorf. Until his marriage to Catherine Smith, whose parents were among the early settlers in Putnam county, he lived on his father's farm, but previous to his marriage had bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Ottawa township, to which he moved upon his marriage, and rapidly brought it to a good state of cultivation. He lived there for about twenty years, at the end of which time he bought a farm of two hundred and twenty-six acres on section 17, in Union township, on which he erected as fine a set of farm buildings as there was in that part of the county at that time. His dwelling house was large, roomy and comfortable, substantial in every detail, and the farm buildings were in keeping with the same. The barn, which Mr. Meyer erected at that time, was for many years a veritable landmark in that section, its peculiar style of architecture attracting general attention, it being built in circular shape and was regarded as one of the finest in the county. Mr. Meyer lived on this place for about fourteen years and then sold that part of the farm containing the house and farm buildings, comprising forty acres, to his son, John W., who now lives there. He then purchased a home in Ottawa and moved to the county seat, where he is now living in comfortable retirement from the activities of life, enjoying the fruits of his earlier days of industrious application to the business of the farm. About twenty years ago Mrs. Meyer, mother of the immediate subject of this sketch, died, and Mr. Meyer took to himself a second wife, marrying Catherine Hark.

To John B. and Catherine (Smith) Meyer were born four children, as follow: Mary, who married Michael Donnersbauch and lives on a farm near St. Clair, Michigan; August, who married Laura Erhart and lives in the town of Glandorf, this county; John W., the subject of this sketch, and Frederick, who married Susan Sleeter and lives in Ft. Jennings, this county.

John W. Meyer was reared on the paternal farm, attending both the district school of that neighborhood and the school at Glandorf. He married Josephine Dangler on July 8, 1913, daughter of Edward and Margaret Dangler, both natives of this state, who, after their marriage, located on a farm near Ottawa, this county, later moving to Defiance, Ohio, where they lived for ten years, at the end of which time they moved back to Putnam county, locating on a farm in Union township, on which they still live. They are the parents of three children, Josephine, Alva and Genevieve, all of whom are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, with which Mr. Meyer also is connected.

On his small, but highly-cultivated farm Mr. Meyer is obtaining ex-

cellent results. In connection with his work of general farming he is deeply interested in the raising of full-blooded Belgian horses and is developing this branch of his operations into a very well-defined business. He gives close attention to the general public affairs of his community and is regarded as one of the coming men of advanced thought in farming lore in that part of the county. He is one of the directors of the Mutual Telephone Company at Kalida. He and his wife take an active part in the social affairs of the neighborhood and are very popular among their large circle of acquaintances.

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### SHERMAN A. WILKINS.

Among the enterprising farmers and citizens of Putnam county, none stands higher in the esteem of his fellow citizens than Sherman A. Wilkins. He has long been actively engaged in farming in Putnam county and the years of his residence have but served to strengthen the feeling of admiration on the part of his fellow men. He has led an honorable life in every particular and set a worthy example for the young and rising generation. He is entitled to representation in any work which purports to set forth the achievements of the citizens of Putnam county. He has applied himself very closely to the work mapped out in his life's career and has waited for the future to bring its reward, and today he is one of the substantial men of Putnam county.

Sherman A. Wilkins, one of the well-known farmers of Putnam county, was born in Blanchard township, Hancock county, Ohio, August 21, 1868, the son of Jacob and Harriett (Stover) Wilkins. Jacob Wilkins was born in Licking county, Ohio, April 30, 1837, the son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Kritsinger) Wilkins, the former a native of Virginia and a pioneer of Licking and Putnam counties.

Jacob Wilkins came from Licking county when four years old, with his parents, who settled in Blanchard township, Putnam county. His father lived in different places in Putnam and Hancock counties and spent the year 1846 in Iowa, returning at the end of that year to Putnam county. Jacob Wilkins spent his youth in Riley and Blanchard townships in Putnam county and here he received his early education. At the age of twenty-nine, he was married to Harriett Stover, in April, 1866. Mrs. Wilkins was the daughter of Daniel and Catherine (Claybaugh) Stover, who were pioneers of Putnam county. Daniel Stover entered land from the government during President

Jackson's administration, in 1827. After Mr. Wilkins's marriage, he lived for eight years in Blanchard township in Hancock county and then moved to Riley township, Putnam county, where he received fifty acres of land from the Stover estate. He later purchased ninety acres. The original farm had contained only two acres that were cleared. This farm of fifty acres had a rude log cabin and no barn. Jacob Wilkins proceeded to clear the land. This work he almost accomplished during his lifetime. He followed general farming and was very successful. He was a Democrat. He died on March 8, 1905, at the age of sixty-eight. His wife died the following November, 1906. She was a member of the Church of God and was a loving mother and a devoted wife. To this union ten children were born, Orpha, deceased, who was the wife of David Fulton; Sherman, the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth, deceased, who was the wife of Wesley Neighbarger; Curtis, deceased; William, who died in infancy; Gertrude, who died at the age of fourteen; Della, the wife of Herbert Harris; Callie, the wife of William Hartman; Grover, who married Lou Kissinger; Charles, who is supposed to have been drowned in California in 1914.

Sherman A. Wilkins was four years old when his parents moved to Riley township, Putnam county, and here he spent his childhood, attending the old district school No. 1. After finishing the common schools, he took a special normal course in Leipsic, and then taught school for two terms. Mr. Wilkins was a successful teacher, but was inclined to farming and, after teaching two years, turned his attention to this vocation.

When Mr. Wilkins was thirty-seven years old, he was married to Lydia McDowell, who was born on August 20, 1867, in Licking county and who is the daughter of Philitus and Nancy (Harris) McDowell, who were among the early pioneers of Putnam county. Philitus McDowell was born in Licking county in 1832.

After his marriage, Mr. Wilkins continued to farm the old home place. He has always done general farming and has been one of the most successful men in his community.

Mrs. Wilkins belongs to the Methodist Protestant church. He is a Democrat and has served his township efficiently as trustee. He is a wide-awake, intelligent and progressive farmer; one of Riley township's most valued citizens. He is well and favorably known throughout Riley township and Putnam county, and his reputation for honesty and square-dealing has never been questioned. Sherman A. Wilkins is not only a highly respected citizen of his community, but he is a man of genial disposition and a man who is much admired for his pleasing personality. He is known as a man who "does things."

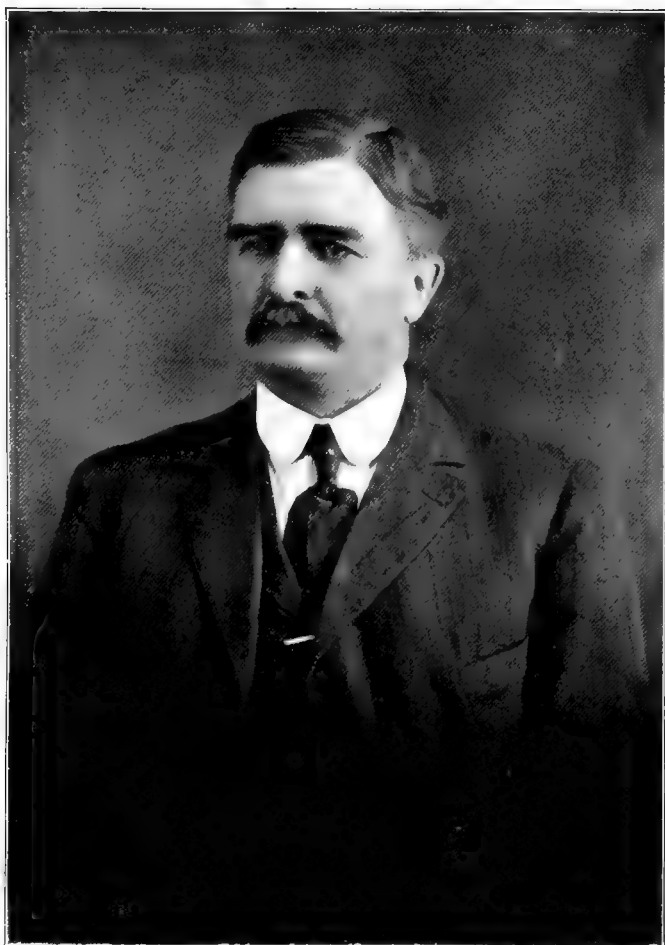
## JUDGE JOSEPH MERSMAN.

The present judge of the probate court of Putnam county, Ohio, is Joseph Mersman, who has been filling this responsible position since 1909. A native of this county, he has spent practically his whole life here, and since he was eighteen years of age, he has always lived in Ottawa, with the exception of two years. He started when a young man as a clerk in a general store in Ottawa, and after following this for several years, he engaged in the creamery business and was the manager of the Riverside Creamery, in Ottawa, until his election as probate judge of the county. In the administration of the duties of this office he has exercised great care and sound judgment and his decisions have always been characterized by fairness and impartiality.

Judge Joseph Mersman, the son of Bernard and Julianna (Bockhold) Mersman, was born at Glandorf, in this county, in 1858. His father was born in Hauenhorst, Rheinpfalz, Germany, in 1818, and came to America when he was about twenty-four years of age. The father of Bernard Mersman died in Germany, and a year or so after Bernard came to this country, his mother also came here and made her home with one of her daughters, Mrs. Meyers, in Putnam county, until her death, January 2, 1877, at the advanced age of ninety-six.

Bernard Mersman first located at Cincinnati, Ohio, upon coming to this country, but shortly afterward moved to Glandorf, Putnam county, where he lived the remainder of his life. He was a merchant and one of the founders of the Glandorf Woolen Mills, a factory which was of much importance in the early history of Glandorf. In addition to his store and factory, he also owned a farm near Glandorf, making this place his home until his death, in 1866, at the age of forty-eight. Julianna Bockhold, the wife of Bernard Mersman, was born in Germany, a daughter of John and Katharine Bockhold. She came to America with a relative and went to Cincinnati, later locating in Glandorf, where she met and married Bernard Mersman. To this union the following children were born, four of whom are living, the others dying in infancy, except Bernard and George. Bernard, deceased, George Henry, deceased, Joseph, Frank J. and Katherine, the wife of Samuel Hunchbarger, Mrs. Theasie Goede. The mother of these children died on March 23, 1909.

Joseph Mersman spent his boyhood days on his father's farm, near Glandorf, his father dying when he was but eight years of age. He worked on the home farm and attended the schools of his township until he was



JUDGE JOSEPH MERSMAN.



seventeen years of age, and then went to Kendallville, Indiana, where he worked for one year, after which time he returned to Putnam county, and located in Ottawa, where he has since lived, with the exception of two years. Upon locating in Ottawa he began clerking in a general store and for thirteen years was employed as a salesman. He then engaged in the creamery business and conducted the Riverside Creamery, until he became probate judge. For several years he has been active in the councils of the Democratic party, and in 1908 his party nominated and subsequently elected him as judge of the probate court, and so satisfactory was his service during his first term that he was renominated and again elected in the fall of 1912, for another term of four years.

Judge Mersman was married in 1880, to Anna M. Unterbrink. She was born in Greensburg township, this county, and is a daughter of Ferdinand and Gertrude Unterbrink. Her parents were natives of Germany, and upon coming to this country located in Greensburg township. Mr. Unterbrink was a well-known farmer, a justice of the peace and a county commissioner for two terms. He was prominently known throughout the county. Mrs. Mersman is a woman of unusual attainments, and early in life began to teach in the public schools of this county, and for several years taught in Greensburg, Pleasant, Union and Ottawa townships.

Judge Mersman and his wife are members of the Catholic church, and deeply interested in its welfare:

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#### BARNEY FELTMAN.

In recent years much attention is being paid by the farmers of Putnam county to the breeding of live stock, cattle in particular receiving careful attention in this direction, it having been satisfactorily proved by many farmers that in judicious feeding lies the greatest source of profit. Not only more, but a higher grade of cattle are being raised in this county, many farmers being particularly careful to have none but the best strains on their farms. Among the farmers of Union township who lately have been devoting much care to the breeding of choice cattle, few are better known in this direction than is Barney Feltman. Mr. Feltman is of the third generation of his family in this county.

Barney Feltman was born on a farm in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, August 14, 1869, the son of Barney and Louisa (Niese) Felt-

man, the former of whom was born in the town of Glandorf, and the latter of whom was born on a farm in Ottawa township, both in Putnam county.

Barney Feltman, the elder, father of the immediate subject of this sketch, was the son of Henry and Angeline (Sager) Feltman, natives of Hanover, Germany, who came to America, proceeding to Putnam county, Ohio, where they located in the Glandorf settlement at an early day in that interesting German colony's history. The farm which Henry Feltman wrested from the forest wilderness became one of the most valuable tracts in that part of the county, the site of the present town of Glandorf covering a large portion of it. Here Henry Feltman lived until the death of his wife, after which time he made his home with his son, Barney, in Pleasant township, where he spent the rest of his life. He was a man highly honored throughout that section in his day and generation and he and his good wife were among the most influential members of the German colony, which did so much for the early development of that part of Putnam county. Henry and Angeline (Sager) Feltman were the parents of six children, Catherine, Elizabeth, Agnes, Mary, William and Barney, the latter of whom was reared on his father's farm at Glandorf, receiving such education as the schools of that time and place afforded and remaining on his father's farm until his marriage to Louisa Niese, at which time he moved to a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Pleasant township, which his father had given him. This he cleared and improved and later added to it fifty-three acres, which he brought to an equal state of cultivation, making it one of the best farms in that township. Barney Niese, father of Mrs. Feltman, was a well-known farmer of the Glandorf neighborhood and lived there until the death of his wife, who was a Laefker, a member of one of the early families of that section, whereupon he moved to the home of his son, Barney Niese, in Palmer township, where he spent the rest of his life. He was left with six children, Louisa, Theresa, Agnes, Anna, Barney and Helena.

To Barney and Louisa (Niese) Feltman were born seven children, as follow: Mary, who married Frank Recker and lives in Ottawa township, this county; Barney, the subject of this sketch; Joseph, who married Helena Niermann and lives in Pleasant township, this county; Edward, who married Bernardina Uphaus and lives in the city of Ottawa, this county; August, who married Helena Kleman and lives in Ottawa township, this county; Harry, who married Florence Schmueller and lives in Pleasant township, this county, and Arnold, who married Josephine Kleman and also lives in Pleasant township.

Barney Feltman was reared on his father's farm in Pleasant township, receiving his education in the public schools of that township, and remained



there until his marriage in 1890, after which he lived for a time on a rented farm nearby and then bought a farm of forty-four acres in the same township, which he later sold and bought eighty acres in sections 7 and 18, in Union township, later buying twenty-five acres in the corporation bounds of the town of Kalida. He has improved his farm in fine shape, the buildings being of an attractive and substantial character and the land well tilled and brought up to a high state of cultivation.

Barney Feltman was united in marriage on August 12, 1890, to Anna Ricker, daughter of Henry and Louisa (Hermiller) Ricker, prominent resident of Union township, this county, the former of whom was the son of Herman and Mary (Kottenbrock) Ricker, who came from Germany and settled in the Glandorf neighborhood in this county, where they reared a family of nine children, Henry, John, Mary, Catherine, Elizabeth, Anna, Herman, Frank and Wilhelmina. Louisa Hermiller was the daughter of Bernard and Bernardina Hermiller, both of whom were natives of Germany, who came to America and for a time lived in the state of Massachusetts, later coming to this county and locating in Ottawa township, where they spent the remainder of their lives. They were parents of seven children, Louisa, Rosa, William, Mary, Henry, Frank and Philomena.

For a time after their marriage Henry Ricker and wife lived on a farm in Pleasant township, this county, later they moved to a farm in Ottawa township, and, finally, located in Union township. To them were born nine children, Mary, Anna, Elizabeth, Clara, Lucy, Herman, Emma, Ignatius and Caroline. Mary (now deceased) married Henry Ellerbrock, of Ft. Jennings, this county; Elizabeth married Joseph Ellerbrock and lives in Jackson township; Clara married Henry Ricker and lives in Jennings township; Lucy married Benjamin Barlager and lives in Kalida. The others are still unmarried.

To Barney and Anna (Ricker) Feltman have been born four children, as follow: Frank B., born on May 31, 1891; Emma L., born on February 18, 1905, died in infancy; Mary, born on September 6, 1907, and Genevieve, born on April 6, 1909. Frank has completed his course at Cincinnati in automobile engineering.

Mr. and Mrs. Feltman are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida and their children have been brought up in the faith, all being devoted to the church's interest and active in the various good works of the parish. Mr. Feltman is a Democrat and takes deep interest in matters relating to local government, being regarded as one of the leaders of the party in that part of the county. He has served his township in the capacity

of assessor and is one of the directors of the Mutual Telephone Company at Kalida. Mr. Feltman is a good farmer and an excellent judge of cattle, taking much pride in his fine herd of full-blooded Shorthorns, to which he gives much attention and which he has found a very gratifying source of profit. He is pleasant in his dealings with his neighbors, courteous to all and is one of the popular men in his section of the county.

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### GIDEON C. STEINER.

It is a well-attested fact that the greatness of a community of state lies not in the machinery of government nor even in its institutions as much as in the sterling qualities of its individual citizens. In his capacity for high and unselfish efforts and his devotion to the public welfare, Gideon C. Steiner has conferred honor and dignity upon his community and as an elemental part of history, it is fitting that there should be recorded a resume of his career with the object in view of noting his connection with the advancement of one of the most flourishing and progressive sections of the great commonwealth of Ohio, as well as his official relation with the administration of educational affairs of the township honored by his residence.

Gideon C. Steiner was born in Riley township, Putnam county, October 23, 1864, the son of Christian and Magdalene (Lugibihl) Steiner, whose family history is found in the sketch of David C. Steiner, a brother of Gideon C.

Gideon C. Steiner was a regular attendant at the old Elm Center school, and he grew to manhood on the old home place. After finishing the common schools, he took a normal course at the Ohio Northwestern University, at Ada. Later, he did special work at Leipsic, and also special normal work at the Tri-State Normal at Angola, Indiana. Upon finishing his education, he taught school in Putnam and adjoining counties for eight years. Gideon C. Steiner was considered a successful teacher and many of his friends believe he would have risen high in the ranks of this profession had he continued a teacher.

At the age of twenty-four, on November 1, 1888, Mr. Steiner was married to Mary A. Baumgartner, who was born in Wayne county, Ohio, the daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Althause) Baumgartner, the former a native of Adams county, Indiana, having been born near Berne, and the latter of Wayne county, Ohio. Daniel Baumgartner was the son of Chris-

tian Baumgartner and wife, who were natives of Switzerland, and who settled in Adams county, Indiana, in an early day. In addition to being a farmer, Christian Baumgartner was a minister of the Mennonite church. He was the fourth child of his parents and grew up in Adams county, Indiana. He was born on December 3, 1844. After his marriage, he moved to Wayne county, Ohio, and here lived for a short time. He then removed to Bluffton, Allen county, Ohio, and after several years, returned to Adams county, Indiana, finally removing to Bluffton, which was his last residence. He was originally a farmer, and in addition to this, he learned the shoemaker's trade, which business he followed later in life, conducting a retail shoe business in Bluffton. Daniel and Elizabeth Baumgartner had five children, Mary, the wife of Mr. Steiner; Joel, of Salem, Oregon; Albert, of Bluffton, Ohio; Elmer W., who died at Leipsic, Ohio, in 1911, and Lucy, who died in infancy. Elizabeth Althause, Daniel Baumgartner's wife, was the daughter of David and Mary (Kirchhoffer) Althause, who were natives of Switzerland, and who came to America at an early date. Elizabeth Althause was born on March 16, 1839, and died in November, 1886.

After his marriage, Gideon C. Steiner taught school for three years. Later he began farming for himself when he rented a farm of eighty acres from his father, three and one-half miles northeast of Pandora. A few years later he purchased this farm. After teaching school for three years, he devoted all of his time to farming. He has always done general farming and has been very successful in this vocation. When he removed to his present farm, it had few improvements, there being only a one-roomed log cabin and a log stable. Mr. Steiner has drained the land and has succeeded in clearing all but five acres. In addition, he has built a good eight-room, modern house and a large, commodious barn with other outbuildings in keeping with the surroundings. Today he has one of the finest farms in Riley township.

Gideon C. Steiner and wife have been the parents of eleven children, Orville Edison, born on October 20, 1889, who is a student at Fort Wayne, Indiana; Edna E., born on January 1, 1891, and died on August 4, 1913; Myron, born on November 8, 1892, and died on February 28, 1901; Lillian, born on July 12, 1894, and died on October 8, of the same year; Olga, born on August 14, 1895; Zella, born on September 8, 1897; Armin, born on January 28, 1899; Clayton, born on November 16, 1900; Lysle, born on October 4, 1902, and died on February 10, 1904; Barbara Grace, born on November 24, 1903, and died on December 27, 1903, and Mary Arvilla, born on August 1, 1906. All of these children have attended, or are at-

tending, the Pandora high school, except the youngest, who attends the local schools.

Mr. Steiner is a Democrat. He has been active in the educational affairs of his township and was a school director for six years. He was also a member of the township school board for seven years. He and his son are members of the Grace Mennonite church, while Mrs. Steiner and the remainder of the family are members of the Missionary church. Gideon C. Steiner is one of Riley township's most substantial farmers. He is well-to-do and is well and favorably known, a man of more than ordinary attainments and, as a citizen, he has done very much for the welfare of the township in which he lives.

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### EDWARD HILTY.

A man's reputation is the property of the world, for the laws of nature have forbidden isolation. Every human being either submits to the controlling influence of others or wields an influence which touches, controls, guides or misdirects them. If he be honest and successful in his chosen field of endeavor, investigation will brighten his fame and point the way along with others who follow with like success. The reputation of Edward Hilty, one of the leading farmers and citizens of Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, having been unimpeachable from the beginning of his career, according to those who know him best, a critical study of his career would be a benefit to the reader of this volume. His life has been not only one of honor, but of usefulness also.

Edward Hilty was born in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, July 15, 1878, the son of Benjamin B. and Susanna (Steiner) Hilty, whose family history may be found in the sketch of Benjamin B. Hilty and of Isaac Hilty, an uncle. His paternal family history is found in the sketch of Peter P. Steiner.

Edward Hilty was born on the old Hilty homestead, one and one-half miles east of Pandora. Here he spent his early childhood and attended the old Steiner district school. At the age of nine years, his mother died, and for about three and one-half years his father kept the children together, after which they were placed with neighboring families. A year before the remainder of the children were placed in new homes, Edward Hilty, who was not yet twelve years old, was sent to live with his grandfather, Peter

Hilty, and his son Samuel. During his residence here, his grandfather died, but he continued to live with his uncle. When about fifteen years old, his father gathered the children together again and they went to live on the old home place. They remained here, with the exception of a few months after the old house burned, until Edward Hilty was twenty-six years old.

Edward Hilty was married on June 24, 1902, at the age of twenty-three, to Martha Sommer, who was born on the old Sommer homestead, one mile north of Pandora, March 15, 1881. She is the daughter of Jacob and Marian (Amstutz) Sommer, the former of whom was a native of Switzerland, born on January 20, 1851, and who came to America at the age of eighteen, settling in Riley township, Putnam county. Here he married Marian Amstutz, who is the daughter of Abraham Amstutz and wife. They had three children, Daniel, Elias and Martha, the wife of Mr. Hilty. Elias died when a youth.

After his marriage, Mr. Hilty remained on the old home place for three years. Finishing his common school education and graduating from the Pandora high school in 1899, he taught the old home school for two years, in the meantime successfully passing the Boxwell examination, which admitted him to the high school. Completing the two-year term of teaching, he took a course at Bluffton College, after which he again taught, with the exception of two years, until 1905, when he left the old home place and moved to Pandora. During his residence here, for a year and a half, he was township assessor and also worked in a store. At the end of this period, he moved back to the old home place and took charge of the farm. In addition to the sixty acres in the old homestead, he rented eighty acres, in all one hundred and forty acres, which he farmed for four and one-half years. He moved to Bluffton in the fall of 1911 where he took special studies at Bluffton College. In the summer, he employed himself at various occupations. In the winter of 1913 and 1914 he taught school in Richland township, Allen county. In the spring of 1914, he moved to the farm of his brother, Albert B., two miles north of Pandora, where he now resides.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hilty have four children, Lenora Marian, born on June 30, 1903; Glenn Wingate, born on October 21, 1904; Merwin Otto, born on January 1, 1907, and Alice Susanna, born on March 14, 1910.

Mr. and Mrs. Hilty are members of the Grace Mennonite church. He is a Democrat, although he considers himself an independent voter. Edward Hilty is a clean-cut, well-informed farmer and citizen. He is well and favorably known throughout Riley township and almost throughout Putnam county. He is a man of more than ordinary attainments and from the be-

ginning of his career, he has been a man whose counsel and advice have been sought upon many matters. He keeps fully abreast of the times and, during the periods of life when he was engaged as a school teacher, he ranked among the best in Putnam county.

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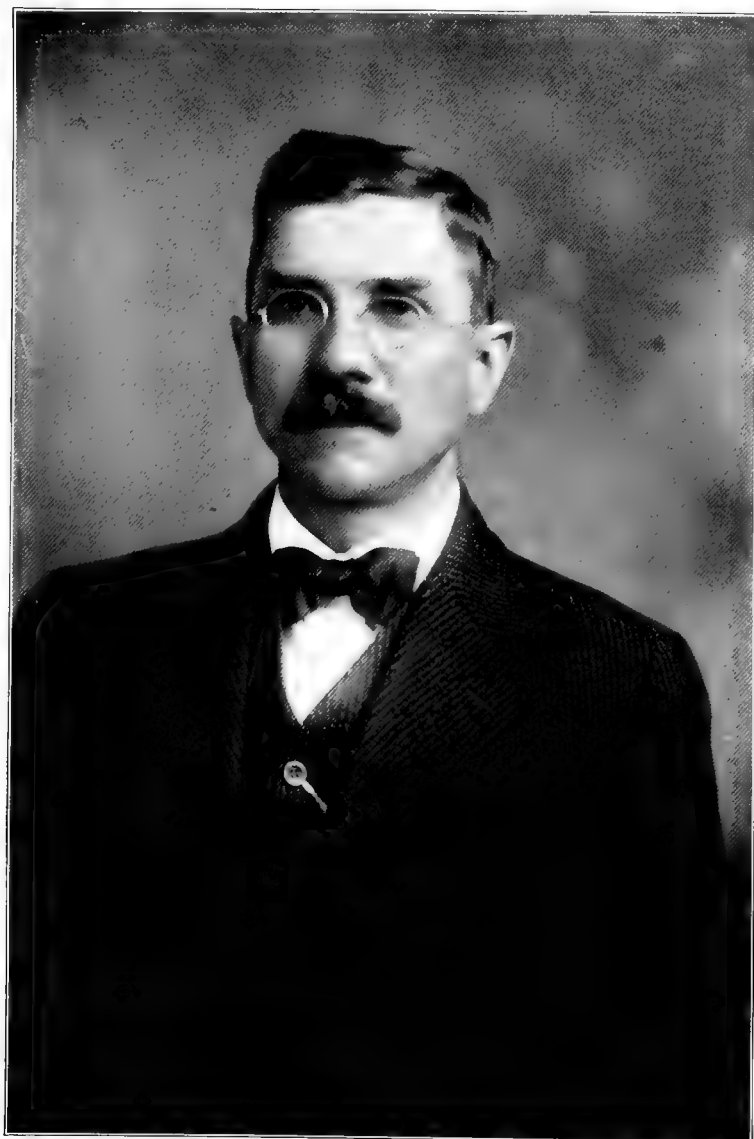
### BERNARD A. UNVERFERTH.

The Unverferth family have been residents of Putnam county, Ohio, since the early part of the thirties, when the grandfather of Bernard A. Unverferth came to this county from Glandorf, Germany, at the same time that a colony of his countrymen came to America. Professor Horstman and others had previously come to this county from Germany. Mr. Unverferth has spent his whole life in this county. He taught in the public schools of the county for several years, and, after graduating from the law department of the State University, began the practice of that profession in 1897, and has made this his life work.

Bernard A. Unverferth, the son of Andrew and Katherine (Schumacher) Unverferth, was born at Glandorf, in Putnam county, September 22, 1871. His father was born in this same county, west of Glandorf, in 1840, and is a son of Henry and Elizabeth Unverferth, who came here from Glandorf, Germany, and located in Greensburg township, three miles west of Glandorf. Katherine Schumacher, the mother of Bernard A. Unverferth, was a native of Prussia, a daughter of Matthias and Elizabeth Schumacher, who were also early settlers in Glandorf, this county. Matthias Schumacher was a tailor and Henry Unverferth was a brickmason, as was his father, Andrew, and most of the men of the family. Andrew Unverferth was a cooper, as well as a brickmason, and he and his wife, who are still living at Glandorf, are the parents of eleven children, nine of whom are living, Matthias, Bernard A., Anna, George, Gertrude, Edward, Dora, Margaret and Francis. One child, Harry, died at the age of nine, and Louis died at the age of thirty-one.

Bernard A. Unverferth graduated from the high school at Ottawa, in 1890, and for the next six years taught in the schools of the county. He then entered the Ohio State University, at Columbus, and graduated in the spring of 1897, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. Before this time he had studied law at home, and also in the law offices of Ottawa.

Immediately after his graduation from the University, Mr. Unverferth



BERNARD A. UNVERFERTH.





began practicing, in partnership, with Judges Handy and Ogan. Two years later he and Judge Handy formed a new partnership and have since been practicing together. Mr. Unverferth was prosecuting attorney of Putnam county from 1903 until 1908 and has also held a number of minor offices in addition to being prosecutor. He is chairman of the Democratic central committee, and also of the Democratic executive committee of his county, and a member of the Ohio state Democratic executive committee.

Mr. Unverferth was married in 1900 to Anna Berheide, who was born at Fort Jennings, in this county, and is a daughter of Henry and Anna Berheide, natives of Germany, and early settlers in Putnam county, where they spent their lives on a farm. Mr. Unverferth and his wife have one son, Elmer, who is now thirteen years of age. The family are members of the Catholic church, and Mr. Unverferth is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

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#### ALBERT SCHUTZ.

It is pleasant, and profitable as well, to contemplate the career of a man who has won a definite goal in life, whose career has been such as to command the honor and respect of his fellow citizens. Such, in brief, is the record of the well-known farmer, and stockman, Albert Schutz, himself a native of Switzerland, who has attained prominence and material success in the country of his adoption. He is one of the most popular men in Riley township, where he has lived for many years, and where he has labored, not only for his own individual advancement, but for the improvement of the entire community, whose interests he ever had at heart. Mr. Schutz is a man who richly deserves the esteem which has been bestowed upon him by the citizens of his community.

He was born in the canton of Berne, Switzerland, January 18, 1859, and is the son of Jacob and Anna (Gruber) Schutz. Jacob Schutz was born in the canton of Berne, Switzerland, in April, 1820. Jacob Schutz's father was a farmer and cheesemaker, and when Jacob was about twenty-eight years of age, his father died. His mother had died when he was twenty. Prior to this time, Jacob had learned the shoemaker's trade from his elder brother, Christian. He did not follow this trade very long, however. As a youth and a young man, he worked at his trade and helped his father on the farm, where he remained up to the time of his marriage. Jacob was one of eight children, five sons and three daughters. The eldest son was Christian, who

remained in the canton of Berne all his life, as did all the others, with the exception of Jacob, Jr.

Jacob Schutz, Jr., was married, when about twenty-eight years of age, to Anna Gruber, who was also born in the canton of Berne, Switzerland, in April, 1822. She was the daughter of Samuel Bruber and wife, both natives of the canton of Berne, Switzerland. The former was a cabinetmaker by trade. Anna had one brother, whose name was Samuel, and who was a cabinetmaker. After Jacob Schutz was married, he rented a farm in the canton of Berne, and it was on this farm that Albert A. and his brother John, referred to elsewhere in this volume, were born, as well as the three eldest children.

When Albert Schutz was five years old, his parents moved to Neuchatel canton, Switzerland, on the Swiss-French frontier. Here they lived until 1885, and here the remainder of the fourteen children were born. Elizabeth resides in Indiana; Jacob died in infancy; Jacob, the second, also lives in Indiana; Gottfried died in 1903, in Switzerland; Albert is the subject of this sketch, John is referred to elsewhere in this volume, Anna came with her husband, John Zumbach, to America, but returned to Switzerland; Mary died at the age of two; Louisa lives at Pandora; Andrew died in infancy; Emile lives in North Dakota. There were three boys, also, who died in infancy.

Jacob Schutz, Jr., and wife came to America in 1885, and settled first in Allen county, Ohio, where they remained one year, and then moved to Tippecanoe county, Indiana, where he spent the remainder of his life on a farm. The farm is located near Lafayette. Here he died at the age of seventy-five years in 1895. After his death his wife, Anna, spent the remainder of her life with her daughter, Mrs. Louisa Suter, at Pandora. She died in 1901.

Albert Schutz, at the age of twenty, came to America, in 1879, coming direct to Riley township, Putnam county. Here he obtained work in a stone quarry in the summer time, and worked at ditching in the winter. He followed this employment for five years, when he was married at the age of twenty-five.

Mr. Schutz was married to Elizabeth Geiger, January 17, 1884. She was born in Allen county in June, 1861, and is the daughter of Christian and Anna (Thut) Geiger, who were pioneers of Allen county. To this happy union one child has been born, Mary M., who was born on October 22, 1885, lives at home. Mrs. Schutz died, July 29, 1887, after a lingering illness.

Two years later Mr. Schutz was married to Sarah Bixler, November 12, 1889. She was born in Riley township, Putnam county, September 29, 1863,

and is the daughter of Jacob and Barbara (Welty) Bixler. The former was a native of Wayne county, Ohio, born in 1831. He died in Riley township, Putnam county, in 1886. The latter was born in Wayne county, April 14, 1832, and died at Mr. Schutz's home, May 6, 1912, at the ripe old age of eighty. Jacob and Barbara Bixler had but two children. The eldest, Mary, is the wife of Mr. Schutz's brother; John A., the youngest child, is Albert A.'s wife.

By his second marriage, Mr. Schutz has been the father of eight children, J. Raymond was born on August 3, 1890. He is a graduate of Otterbein University, class of 1914, and is now principal of the Pandora high school; Elizabeth was born on December 18, 1891; Walter was born on August 9, 1893. He is a student at Otterbein University; Bertha was born on June 21, 1896. She is a senior in the Pandora high school; Edmund was born on May 26, 1898. He is a junior in the Pandora high school; John P. was born on September 12, 1900. He is a freshman in the Pandora high school; Albert was born on November 22, 1902. Another child died at birth.

After his marriage to Sarah Biler in 1889, Mr. Schutz took up his residence on the Stuter farm, of a hundred and twenty acres, two miles of Pandora. This farm he purchased at this time. It had an old adobe house, and a forty by seventy foot frame barn. About seven years later, in 1896, Mr. Schutz built a beautiful modern brick residence of eleven rooms, and in 1910, he enlarged and remodeled his barn. He built a cattle shed in addition, thirty by eighty-one feet in 1914. These, with other buildings and improvements in keeping with the surroundings, make one of the finest improved farms in Putnam county.

Mr. Schutz purchased the Lehman farm of eighty acres adjoining his farm on the east in 1903, which gives him a total of two hundred acres. The land is unsurpassed, for fertility and productiveness, anywhere in Putnam county. Mr. Schutz has always done general farming and stock feeding and is an extensive raiser of thoroughbred Holstein cattle.

Mr. and Mrs. Schutz are members of the Grace Mennonite church, while he is serving as one of its trustees. He is a Democrat, and was a member of the Riley township school board for a number of years. He served in this position during the time the new high school was being erected and completed. He is vice-president and a director of the Pandora Banking Company, and is president of the Pandora Hardware Company. He is one of Riley township and Putnam county's most substantial and progressive farmers; a citizen who is well and favorably known, and a man of exceptionally high standing.

## HERMAN W. MORMAN.

Anyone interested in the history of Putnam county does not have to carry on a very great research before learning that Herman W. Morman has long been one of its very active and leading citizens in the agricultural and stock-raising life of this community. For many years he has carried on the business of general farming, gradually improving his valuable place, and his residence in this neighborhood has strengthened his hold on the hearts of the people with whom he has been associated, who esteem him for his integrity of character, kindly disposition and good business ability.

The subject of this review was born on his father's farm in Greensburg township, this county, February 11, 1853, and is the son of William and Gertrude (Wortkotter) Morman. William Morman was born in Germany, November 30, 1822, and came to this country with his parents when he was nine years old. Gertrude (Wortkotter) Morman was a native of Germany, born on January 6, 1822, as also were her parents who immigrated to this country and probably first settled in Toledo, Ohio, but later removed from there to Pleasant township, Putnam county, where her husband first met her.

William Morman's father first settled on a forty-acre tract of heavily timbered, wild and swampy land in Ottawa township, near the town of Glandorf, Ohio, where he underwent the hardships of the pioneer and, besides farming to some extent, drove teams for the canal boats which passed through this section. At the age of twenty-one years Herman Morman's father was married to Gertrude Wortkotter and then bought a farm consisting of eighty acres in Greensburg township, this county, and continued farming for the rest of his life and where he died on January 29, 1908, at the ripe old age of eighty-five years. He was a consistent advocate of the principles of Democracy, though not active in politics, and a life-long member of the Catholic church in Glandorf, Ohio. Mrs. Morman lived to be eighty-three years of age and died on April 22, 1905. To them were born seven children, Frank, Herman, Mary, who is now Mrs. Mary Maas, residing in Custer, Wood county, Ohio, and Mrs. Minnie Maas who resides in Greensburg township, this county; besides those named there were Henry, Katherine and Anna who are deceased, the latter two dying in infancy.

Herman W. Morman was married on September 23, 1875, to Josephine Maag, a daughter of Theodore and Catherine (Pursell) Maag, both natives of Germany, the former immigrating to this country when about twenty years of age, the latter, together with her parents, left their native country

and settled in the city of Cincinnati. Theodore Maag first settled in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was employed in the yards of a boiler-making industry where, after serving three years, he was given work on the inside of the shop. Owing to his small stature the employer found him a convenient worker at riveting boiler sheets. In the old country he had acquired a good knowledge of the wagonmaker's trade which helped him considerably in the boiler works. It was in Cincinnati that he married his wife and then decided to move to Glandorf, Ohio, where he purchased a tract consisting of two hundred acres of virgin timber land and, after clearing it of the timber, devoted his energies to general farming, incidentally doing a little wagon-making and repairing business for the neighboring community. In this particular line of work he was well-skilled and it was always a pleasure for him to furnish first-class material and do the work in a high-class manner. Instead of receiving actual cash for his services in repairing, he would exact a certain amount of clearing to be done on his land. Reaching the age of seventy-three, he died in 1879, after having spent a most useful and reputable life. His wife died on May 1, 1901, after having attained the age of eighty-eight years. Her life was ever one of true devotion and loyalty to her husband and children. To them were born ten children, William, Denia, Frank, Mary, Agnes, Barney, Joseph and Josephine, all of whom are now deceased. The living children are Edward, who resides in Pleasant township, this county, and Meania Brinkman, who lives in Greensburg township, this county.

Henry W. Morman spent his youthful days about his father's farm, assisting in every possible manner to make the work of his parents less arduous, and he was so much needed around the home that little time was found for him to attend the township schools. In those days the knowledge he gained can be credited mostly to his keen observation and constant and careful perusal of newspapers, particularly the *Putnam County Sentinel*, and this is one way by which he acquired a fluent speech in the English language. For about a year after his marriage, he remained on his father's farm, and then located on the present farm consisting of eighty acres, which he afterward purchased.\* Originally, this entire eighty-acre tract was covered with virgin timber, which he cleared, ditched, drained and fenced, and where he built the residence and made other necessary improvements toward advantageous farming. Besides raising general farm crops, Mr. Morman gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock, particularly to hogs, in the breeding and care of which he is very successful.

Herman W. Morman is the father of seven children, Rosa, who died

when eight years of age; Edward, who married Elizabeth Korte, and has five children; August, who married Agnes Brinkman, and has three children; Martha, who married Benjamin Warnecke, and lives on the home farm and has three children; Caroline, who died in infancy; Amelia, single and at home; Hildagard, single and at home.

In a political way Mr. Morman gives his consistent support to the Democratic party, but does not aspire to political office, though he served the people faithfully for a time as a member of the local school board. The entire family are members of the Catholic church in Glandorf, Ohio, from which church his beloved wife and helpmate was buried after her death, which occurred on June 27, 1911. Personally, Mr. Morman is a man of pleasing personality, fair and square in his dealings with his fellow men, and full worthy of any trust that may be reposed in him.

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#### CARL REGIL VAN METER.

Men who have attained success in their life vocations are always honored and respected by the community in which they have lived and have accomplished so much. Dearly loved are those who always find time to work in the interests of the community at large. Inspiring others to loyalty and faithfulness. Able men never fail to raise the standard of their community, and the public generally is proud to record the chief incidents of their lives. A well-known farmer of Riley township, who has been the recipient of unique honors, is Carl Regil Van Meter. Mr. Van Meter was elected trustee of Riley township as a Republican, although the township is overwhelmingly Democratic, and he is one of the first Republicans to have been elected to this office in many years. His election is an evidence of the esteem in which he is held by his neighbors and fellow citizens.

Carl R. Van Meter was born on October 6, 1882, in Monroe township, Allen county, Ohio, the son of George S. and Hannah (Reeder) Van Meter. George S. Van Meter was born in Monroe township, Allen county, and is the son of James Van Meter and wife, the latter of whom was a Miss Schriver, before her marriage. James Van Meter was born near Mansfield, Ohio, and came to Allen county in the early days, settling in Monroe township. Here he owned over two hundred acres of land. It was here that he reared his family of two sons and six daughters, Susanna, John, Nancy, Mary, Louisa, Rachel, George and Elizabeth. It was on the old homestead here

that Carl Van Meter's father, George S. Van Meter, was reared, and here he secured his education in the typical log cabin school. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-nine years of age, helping his father clear the land. He also worked for neighbors and cleared the forest under contract at the rate of ten dollars an acre.

At the age of twenty-nine, George Van Meter was married to Hannah Reeder, the daughter of William and Hulda (Howey) Reeder. She was born in Monroe township, Allen county. Her mother had come from near Pottsville, Pennsylvania, with her parents in an early day. After his marriage, George Van Meter settled on sixty acres, a part of the old home place, and since that time has added twenty acres to the farm. He has always been engaged in general farming and has very greatly improved his farm. It was here that his children were born. They are as follow: Harley, of Monroe township; Carl R., the subject of this sketch; George Howard, who died at the age of two; Carrie, the wife of Joseph Steele, who resides in Michigan; Ralph, who is unmarried and who lives at Niagara Falls; Clark, who is unmarried and at home; Paul, who died in infancy.

Carl R. Van Meter grew to manhood on the old homestead of his parents in Monroe township, Allen county. Here he attended the district schools and helped his father on the farm until he was twenty-three years old.

Mr. Van Meter was married on March 28, 1906, at the age of twenty-three to Eva Belle Bowers, who was born in Monroe township, Allen county, September 12, 1886, and who is the daughter of Charles H. and Anna (Wright) Bowers. Charles H. Bowers was born in Monroe township, Putnam county, the son of John and Ann (Cook) Bowers. Anna Wright was born in Tuscarawas county, and is the daughter of George and Jane (Holmes) Wright. George Wright and wife came to Allen county when their children were small, settling in Monroe township.

After his marriage, Mr. Van Meter rented the Alfred Mayberry farm, a farm in Monroe township, Allen county, and after one year, in January, 1907, he moved to Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, to the old Mark Laib farm, which he rented for three years. It comprised one hundred and seventy-five acres. After this time, he purchased eighty acres, which farm has been his residence ever since. Mr. Van Meter has always been engaged in general farming, but has paid particular attention to the raising and breeding of hogs. He has one of the best eighty-acre farms in this part of Putnam county.

Mr. Van Meter is a Republican. He is now serving as trustee of Riley

township. The fact that he was elected to his present office in a community where the Democratic party is greatly in the majority, indicates his position of high standing in this township. Mr. and Mrs. Van Meter are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Pandora. He is a trustee of the church and has served as assistant Sunday school superintendent. Formerly, he was choir leader in the church at Rockport. Carl R. Van Meter deserves to rank as one of the representative citizens, not only of Riley township, but also of Putnam county, where he has lived for many years. He has made a splendid record in the office to which he was elected by the people of Riley township and has thus further established himself in the esteem and confidence of those with whom he comes in contact.

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### GEORGE A. STAUFFER.

The Stauffer family have been residents of Putnam county, Ohio, since 1870, when the parents of George A. Stauffer located in Ottawa township. Mr. Stauffer engaged in general farming and stock raising, until the fall of 1907, and then came to Ottawa and engaged in the real estate and loan business, which he has since made his occupation. He has been very active in political affairs and, as a member of the Republican party, has held various positions with it since 1895.

George A. Stauffer, the son of Abraham D. and Annie E. (Sigler) Stauffer, was born on April 14, 1874, in Perry township, Putnam county, Ohio. His father was born in Washington county, Maryland, April 16, 1844, and was a son of Dillon and Mary (Myers) Stauffer, natives of Switzerland. Annie E. Sigler was also a native of Washington county, Maryland, and was a daughter of George and Elizabeth (Vogel) Sigler, who came to this country from Germany. Abraham Stauffer and wife were reared and married in Washington county, Maryland, and lived there until 1870, when they moved to Putnam county, Ohio, and located in Ottawa township. A few years later they moved to Perry township, where Mr. Stauffer engaged in farming and carpentering. A. D. Stauffer was born with but one hand, but when the Civil War broke out, he enlisted from Hagerstown, Maryland, and served four years and nineteen days. During the war he enlisted three times and received an honorable discharge for each enlistment, first from the infantry; second, from the artillery, and third from the cavalry.





*W. H. H. H. H.*



George A. Stauffer was reared on the farm and received a good common school education in the schools of his home neighborhood. As a youth he learned the carpenter's trade with his father, working with him as a contractor and builder in this county. After his marriage in 1901 he engaged in farming in Perry township and continued in agricultural pursuits until in October, 1907. At that time he moved to the county seat and engaged in the real estate and loan business with B. L. Griffiths. They were partners until in June, 1908, since which time Mr. Stauffer has been conducting the same business alone. He and H. I. Kahle organized the Stauffer Investment and Loan Company in March, 1913, which company has built up a thriving business in a short time. George A. Stauffer purchased the interest of H. I. Kahle, January 1, 1915, and is conducting it alone.

Mr. Stauffer has been a leader in the affairs of the Republican party of his county for more than twenty years. He was elected committeeman for Perry township in April, 1895, and served the central and executive committees of his party continuously until 1908. In that year he was elected secretary and treasurer of the Republican county central and executive committees and the same year was made vice-chairman of the Republican league of Ohio, a position which he still retains. He was elected a member of the state central committee for the Fifth Congressional District in 1912, and was chairman of both committees in Putnam county. He was re-elected to the same position in 1914. He was a member of the board of deputy state supervisors of elections for Putnam county for eight years, during which time he served as clerk of the board for two years.

Mr. Stauffer is president of the Ottawa Gazette Publishing Company, a position which he has held since 1912. He is a stockholder in the Farmers State and Savings Bank of Continental, Ohio. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, a member of the blue lodge, chapter and council. He became a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Dupont, when he was twenty-one years of age and has filled all of the chairs of that lodge since that time. He is also a member of the encampment and the Daughters of Rebekah. He holds his membership in the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, at Findlay, Ohio.

Mr. Stauffer was married in December, 1901, to Grace G. Varner, who is a native of Greensburg township, this county, the daughter of Isaiah and Fanny (Landes) Varner. She lived in Greensburg township until her marriage, and for four years was a successful school teacher in the district schools of her home township. Mr. Stauffer and his wife have an interest-

ing family of five children, Audrey Gail, Annie Mildred, George A., Jr., Lila May and Glenna Naomi.

On February 8, 1915, Governor Willis notified Mr. Stauffer that he had appointed him inspector of oils for the state of Ohio, which position he declined. The governor, however, insisted he should be a member of his cabinet and held the position open for two weeks, urging him to take it, to show the appreciation of his assistance in the campaign. Mr. Stauffer, not wanting any political appointment, declined, and the governor released him with an acknowledgment of the full appreciation of his services, with the mutual understanding that Mr. Stauffer was not in politics for revenue, but for the benefit of his state and party.

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### ELMER E. BRACY.

Among the men of sterling worth and strength of character who have made an impression on the life of the locality where they live, no one has achieved a larger measure of success than Elmer E. Bracy. Mr. Bracy has spent his entire life in Putnam county and the people have had an opportunity to know every phase of his character. That he has been true to life in its every phase is manifest by the esteem and regard in which he is held by all those who know him. He has won success by his own honest endeavor and indomitable energy, and has placed himself in the front ranks of the farmers of his community, by exercising these splendid qualities. Mr. Bracy has outstripped the less active plodders on the highway of life and achieved marked success in agricultural affairs. He has won for himself a name, which all men who know him, delight to honor.

Mr. Bracy was born on January 17, 1870, in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, the son of John C. and Esther (Harris) Bracy.

John C. Bracy was born in Blanchard township, Putnam county, in 1849, the son of John Bracy, Sr., and wife. The family history of the Bracys may be found in the life-story of Isaac Bracy, an uncle of Elmer E. Bracy, elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. John C. Bracy died in May, 1912.

**Elmer E. Bracy** was born on his father's old homestead, about two and one-half miles southwest of Gilboa. Here he spent his childhood and youth, and here he attended the old district school No. 2. After finishing school, he helped his father to clear up the old home place. He remained with his parents until he was twenty years old.

At this time Mr. Bracy was married, May 1, 1890, to Sarah Helen Buckland, who was born in Blanchard township, April 25, 1874. She is the daughter of Lewis and Mary (Agner) Buckland and her family history is to be found in the sketch of Elah Buckland, her uncle, contained elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Bracy was one of seven children born to her parents, two of whom died in infancy. Those living are Sarah, Melvin, Nettie, Clyde and Della. Mrs. Bracy's parents are both deceased. Her father died in February, 1912, and her mother died in September, 1898.

To Mr. and Mrs. Bracy, eight children have been born, Flo Z. May, born on June 8, 1891, and died on February 27, 1893; John Lewis, born on October 31, 1893; Roxie Marie, born on December 6, 1895; Gladys Jemina, born on February 14, 1897; Maver Caroline, born on February 17, 1903; Brenna Mildred, born on June 5, 1907; Ruby Lucile, born on April 6, 1913; Sadie May, born on April 11, 1915.

After his marriage, Mr. Bracy worked for the neighboring farmers during the first year, but the following year he rented land of Duff Bracy in Riley township and, subsequently, rented his father's old home place. After operating this farm for one year, he moved to forty acres of his father's land, three and one-half miles northeast of Pandora. This farm has been his residence ever since. He purchased this place from his father and also purchased one hundred and twenty acres in Lakefield township, Saginaw county, Michigan. Mr. Bracy has always been engaged in general farming and has enjoyed more than an ordinary success in this vocation.

Mr. Bracy is a Democrat. Mr. and Mrs. Bracy attend the Radical Brethern, of which Mrs. Bracy is a member. Elmer E. Bracy is one of Riley township's progressive farmers. He comes from one of the best families of Putnam county, of old pioneer stock, and he is well and favorably known for his sterling integrity and genial disposition.

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### ISAAC ZUERCHER.

The Swiss people may justly lay claim to the exertion of a greater influence on the world along lines of citizenship and the development of individual independence than has been exerted by the people of any other nation of their size. The rugged nature of their fatherland and their constant communion with the grandest scenic beauties of the world has fostered in the people an independence and loftiness of thought and action such as was

exemplified by their national hero, Andreas Hofer. It is probable that from no country in the world have come such intelligent and thoroughly desirable citizens as have been welcomed by the United States on their arrival from Switzerland. In this respect Putnam county, Ohio, has been indeed fortunate, for many of the immigrants from the rugged and mountainous republic of Switzerland have settled in this county where they have reared families, the members of which are now ranked among Putnam county's ablest citizens. Not the least of these families is that of Isaac Zuercher, which came to this country during comparatively recent years.

Isaac Zuercher was born in Berne canton, Switzerland, August 14, 1860, a son of Isaac, Sr., and Anna (Geiger) Zuercher. Isaac Zuercher, Sr., was born in Berne canton, Switzerland, October 7, 1826, both his parents having been natives of Switzerland.

Isaac Zuercher, Sr., was a carpenter by trade and, while in Switzerland, worked at making furniture. He also worked to some extent on a farm in that country. There he married Anna Geiger, who was born in Berne canton, Switzerland, a daughter of Peter and Marion Geiger, both of whom were natives of Switzerland. To Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Zuercher, Sr., were born thirteen children, as follows: Marian, deceased, who was the wife of Fred Geiser of Wayne county, Ohio; Daniel and Samuel of Adams county, Indiana; John, of Wayne county, Ohio; Peter, of Allen county, Ohio; David, of Wayne county, Ohio; Isaac, the subject of this sketch; Christian, who lives in Wayne county, Ohio; Jacob, who lives in Columbus Grove, Putnam county; Anna, deceased, who was the wife of Peter Welty, of Pandora; Barbara, the wife of Fred Hanni, who lives in Adams county, Indiana; Lena, the wife of Emil Kuntz, of Los Angeles, California; Eliza, the wife of George Eisenbeck, of Pandora.

Anna Geiger, mother of Isaac Zuercher, died in Switzerland on September 17, 1869. Her father, Peter Geiger, was a farmer and was also a watchmaker by trade. He died when his son Isaac was seven or eight years old, his wife surviving him for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Peter Geiger had one son, Christian, and two daughters, Barbara and Anna. Christian and Barbara came to America.

Isaac Zuercher was twelve years of age, when, after his mother's death, his father and nine children came to America and settled in Wayne county, Ohio. For about two years after their arrival the children were placed with relatives, while their father worked at his trade as a carpenter. He then went to Adams county, Indiana, where he married again, his second wife being Mrs. Elizabeth (Sprunger) Amstutz. She had several children and

owned a farm in Adams county. There the subject's father lived during the remainder of his life, and there he died at the ripe old age of nearly eighty-eight years, the date of his death having been on October 2, 1914.

Isaac Zuercher was twelve years of age at the time of his arrival in America, and he went at once to live with his cousin, Christian Zuercher, the fathers of both of whom were half brothers, on a farm in Wayne county, Ohio. There he attended school until he was seventeen years of age, after which he worked on the farm until he was twenty-one years old. He then went to Missouri, stopping on his way in Berne, Indiana, where he spent six weeks. He located first in Moniteau county, Missouri, where he hired out to a farmer for two years.

He married Mary Garber on January 24, 1884, who was born in Wayne county, Ohio, November 26, 1864, a daughter of Christian and Barbara (Hostetter) Garber. Mrs. Zuercher's parents were born in Wayne county, Ohio, and their parents were natives of Switzerland, having come to America during the early days of Wayne county. Mrs. Zuercher was one of a family of fourteen children, and went to Missouri with her parents when she was one year of age. She grew to womanhood in Missouri and spent her life there until 1884.

After his marriage, Isaac Zuercher rented a farm for a time, and then bought property in Morgan county, Missouri, where he operated one hundred and seventy-seven acres until February, 1901. He then bought eighty acres in Riley township, Putnam county, one mile east of Pandora, where he still makes his home.

Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Zuercher, as follow: Orpha, born on March 27, 1885, now the wife of Daniel A. Basinger, of Pandora, to whom two children have been born, Naomi and one who died in infancy; Bertha was born on December 30, 1886, is unmarried and lives at home; Lydia was born on December 29, 1888, is the wife of John Diller, of Pandora, and has one daughter, Mildred, and a son, Earnest, born on November 5, 1890, married Ida Kiene and lived in Pleasant township. He has one son, Earl Frank, born on February 18, 1892, married Celia Wensinger. They had twins—one of whom is deceased. Elmer and Elfin, twins, were born on September 26, 1893. Elmer died on September 21, 1910. Elfin married Lula Marks and lives at Pandora. Wilbert was born on November 14, 1897, and Pearl on November 29, 1909.

Mr. Zuercher has always conducted his farm for general farming purposes and has been very successful in his business. He has a fine modern

ten-room residence, a large and commodious barn and other farm buildings fully in keeping with the surroundings.

He is a supporter of the Republican party and has always taken an intelligent interest in political matters, but has never aspired to public office. Mr. and Mrs. Zuercher are both members of the Grace Mennonite church and are active in all church work.

Mr. Zuercher is one of Riley township's most substantial farmers. He is highly esteemed and respected throughout his community, both as a citizen and as a neighbor, and is regarded as being one of the foremost citizens of Putnam county.

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### EMMETT L. BURKHART.

Many citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, have come themselves, or are the sons of men who have come from the good old Keystone state of Pennsylvania, and where they are found in this county they are among the most prosperous citizens. It is a fact that the most venturesome and ambitious people are those who have the courage to make their homes in a new and promising country, and this accounts in a great measure for the splendid prosperity which has come to Putnam county in its history. The fact that its citizens are men of courage and determination, who came here to better their condition, has given this county a citizenship which has made for prosperity in every particular.

Emmett L. Burkhart was born in Riley township, Putnam county, August 21, 1884, a son of Levi and Catherine (Parcher) Burkhart. Levi Burkhart was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, May 6, 1822, and died on October 16, 1904. He was a son of John and Sarah (Good) Burkhart, who were natives of Pennsylvania. John B. Burkhart died when Levi was a small boy, and after his father's death, Levi went to live with an uncle.

At the age of twenty-six, Levi married Elizabeth Beyers, who was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, a daughter of John and Nancy Beyers. To that union were born seven children, as follow: John Y., born on May 12, 1849; Andrew L., born on June 11, 1851; Naomi, born on April 24, 1855; Lydia A., born on October 21, 1858, and who died in August, 1860; Samuel, born on August 28, 1861; Elizabeth, born on December 24, 1864, and Amanda Ann, born on February 26, 1867.

Levi Burkhart migrated from Pennsylvania to Ohio in the early days



and settled first in Franklin county, near Columbus, Ohio, and later, in 1854, came to Riley township, Putnam county, and settled two and one-half miles east of what was then Pendleton, now Pandora, where his wife died.

He married again, his second wife being Catherine Parcher, a daughter of George and Diantha Parcher. George Parcher was a native of New York state and came to Ohio during the early days, having settled near Bucyrus. He served during the Civil War and died while his children were young. His wife was a native of Vermont.

To this second union was born one son, Emmett L., the subject of this sketch, who was born in Riley township, Putnam county, August 21, 1884.

When Levi Burkhart came to Putnam county, in 1854, he bought the Douglas farm and gradually developed it and added to it until he owned four hundred acres, all of which lay in Riley township, except forty acres, which extended into Paulding county. At the time when he settled upon the homestead it was in practically a virgin state, heavily timbered and with only a few acres cleared. He first built a two-room log cabin and a barn, after which he proceeded to prepare his land, working at it from year to year until he had succeeded in getting it nearly all in cultivation.

He operated it as a general farm and met with marked success. He was a member of the Republican party, and was an active member of the Methodist Protestant church, which he attended faithfully. He was a hard-working, honest and upright citizen, and a man of high ideals.

Emmett L. Burkhart spent his boyhood on the homestead, where he attended the district school and helped his father with the farm work, his father at that time having been somewhat advanced in years. At the age of twenty-four, September 4, 1907, he married May Miller, who was a daughter of William and Sarah (Lutz) Miller. William Miller was born in Allen county, Ohio, August 18, 1855, a son of Wesley and Lydia (Steepleton) Miller. His wife was a daughter of George and Ustana (Weaver) Lutz.

After his marriage, Emmett L. Burkhart continued to live on the homestead. He purchased a section of forty acres from his mother and the other heirs of his father's estate, in addition to the section of forty acres which he had inherited from his father. On this land he is engaging in general farming and is meeting with marked success in his endeavors.

Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Emmett L. Burkhart. They are Stanley Milton, born on April 6, 1908, and Edith Eleanor, born on February 14, 1910.

Mr. Burkhart is a supporter of the Republican party, but though he

has always taken an intelligent interest in political matters, he has never aspired to public office. Mrs. Burkhart is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Pandora, Ohio.

Mr. Burkhart is a keen, progressive farmer and is highly regarded in his community, both as a citizen and as a neighbor.

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### JOHN WILLIAM COTTINGHAM.

A well-known business man, of Leipsic, Ohio, is John W. Cottingham, who has been a resident of this place for a score of years. Born in England, he came to this country when he was six years of age with his parents, and located in Delta, Ohio. Growing to manhood in that city he lived for several years in Deshler, Ohio, and then came to Leipsic, where he has since resided. Since coming to this city, he has installed the present electric light plant and has been engaged in this line of activity ever since. He is a man of unusual energy and ability, and one of the representative men of his city and county. He is a stockholder and director in the Essex Coal Company, of Columbus, of which he is also vice-president.

John W. Cottingham, the son of George Wattam and Elizabeth (Larder) Cottingham, was born in Market Rasen, England, in 1865. His parents came to America in 1871, and with their five children located at Delta, Ohio, where George Cottingham engaged in the manufacture of pearl ash. In addition to his manufacturing interests he was also engaged in farming. George W. Cottingham lived in Delta, Ohio, for the remainder of his life and became prominently identified with the life of the community. He served as a member of the city council and also held various other official positions. He died in 1903.

John W. Cottingham grew to manhood in Delta, Ohio, and received a good common and high school education. He went to Deshler, Ohio, in the latter eighties, and engaged in the manufacture of pearl ash, in that city. After living there for seven years, he came to Leipsic and, in 1896, built the present electric light plant in this place. He has since been engaged in the furnishing of light and power to the city and private consumers of the city.

Mr. Cottingham was married at the age of twenty-three, to Laura Freeman, who was a daughter of James and Julia (Van Swearingen) Freeman, and lived at Delta from the time she was seventeen years of age. She came to Delta from Monte Valley, Missouri, with her mother, who was descended



JOHN W. COTTINGHAM.



from a Revolutionary soldier, Joseph Van Swearingen, and has a certificate, giving the official verification of her descent. Mr. Freeman's father was a native of Ireland, and Mr. Freeman, himself, was a merchant in Missouri, until the time of his death. There were five children born to the first marriage of Mr. Cottingham, Frances Elizabeth, the wife of William Thompson, of Springfield, Ohio; Vivian Louise, the wife of Lloyd Holderman, of Leipsic; Marion Agnes, Warner Van Swearingen and Margaret Joyce, the last three children being single and still living with their father in Leipsic. The mother of these five children died in Leipsic, in 1902, and, in 1903, Mr. Cottingham married Catherine Easton Harrison, who was born in Lincoln, England, and is a daughter of Levi and Elizabeth (Cottingham) Harrison. Mr. Cottingham lived in England until her marriage. Three children have been born to this second marriage, Dorris, who died in infancy; Dudley Harrison, and Phyllis Mary Grace.

Mr. Cottingham and his family have a beautiful home in the western part of Leipsic, where they entertain their many friends with genuine hospitality. He has taken an active part in the civic life of the city and has served on the school board. While living in Deshler, Ohio, he served two terms in the council of that city. The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Cottingham is a member of the Knights of Macabees. The Cottingham family trace their ancestry back to old Colonial times, when the first members of the family located in New England. In England, the family had a coat-of-arms, and members of the family in that country still use it.

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#### DAVID HUMMON.

One of the best-known citizens of Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, is David Hummon, who, for sixty-six years, or during his entire life, has lived in the township of his birth. David Hummon has been influential in the political and civic life of his township, and for many years, served the people of his community in an official capacity, having been identified with the educational interest of the township and entitled today for very much of the credit of the high standard of the public schools of Riley township. As a farmer, David Hummon has been very successful; as a citizen, he is respected and admired by his neighbors; having won a competence in life by his early labors, he is so situated that he may now enjoy the fruits of his early labors.

David Hummon was born on July 1, 1849, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, the son of John and Mary A. (Wyninger) Hummon. John Hummon was born in Wyandot county, Ohio, in 1815. Both John Hummon and his wife were of German descent and came from Wyandot county to Putnam county, in 1832. John Hummon and his wife were married nine years before coming to Putnam county, where they entered one hundred and sixty acres of land and gradually added to their original holdings until, at the time of his death, John Hummon owned fully eleven hundred acres. Throughout his life, John Hummon was an ardent Democrat and was loyal to the Union cause during the dark days of the Civil War and contributed his energies and his money to the support of that cause. John Hummon died on March 6, 1878, in Riley township.

The parents of John Hummon were Simon Peter and Mary (Kerns) Hummon. Simon Peter Hummon was a native of Pennsylvania, a farmer and a distiller of whiskey and applejack. His wife was a native of Holland, who came to America alone, locating in Kittanning county, Pennsylvania, where she met and married Simon Peter Hummon. Six children were born to this union in Pennsylvania, and four more were born after their arrival in Ohio, in all, there were eight daughters and two sons, one of whom was John Hummon, the father of David, the subject of this sketch.

John Hummon and wife were also the parents of ten children, eight of whom are still living. They are, Levi, born on December 31, 1837; Adam, born on July 31, 1839; George, born on January 24, 1845; Minerva, born on July 7, 1847, David, the subject of this sketch, and Simon P., born on June 8, 1851; Clara E., born on February 15, 1855; and Ada, born on August 14, 1859, and died in 1888. One son died at the age of thirteen and a daughter at the age of two. The mother of these children died on September 29, 1881. She was a member of the Methodist Protestant church.

David Hummon was born on the old homestead in Riley township, where he now lives. It was the farm which his father entered from the government when he came from Wyandot county, Ohio, and consisted originally of one hundred and sixty acres. The present farm consists of one additional acre. Mr. Hummon attended the typical log cabin school and helped his father clear the land. He remained on the old home place until he was twenty-five years old.

David Hummon was married on February 4, 1875, at the age of twenty-five, to Mary E. Wilkins, who was born on December 26, 1851, in Licking county, Ohio, and who is the daughter of Albert and Harriett (Allison) Wil-

kins. Her father was born in Licking county on October 9, 1820, and died in Putnam county, in June, 1890. He was the son of Daniel Wilkins and wife. Harriett Allison was born in New York state, in 1823, and died in Putnam county, in 1893. She was the daughter of Samuel and Bethsheba Allison, who came to Licking county in 1840, where he remained the balance of his life. After his death, his wife returned to New York state, where she died. Samuel Allison and wife had five children, Samuel, Harriett, Rebecca, Isaac and Susan. Mrs. Hummon was one of five children, the others being, Edward M., Daniel F., George R., and Emma R. Mrs. Hummon came from Licking to Putnam county, Ohio, in the fall of 1856 at the age of five years. She was brought to Putnam county with her parents, who came in covered wagons. They settled about two miles south of Gilboa. The old two-roomed log house is still in a good state of preservation. It was on the old homestead that Mary spent her childhood and here she attended the district schools. She remained at home until she was twenty-four years old, at which time she was married.

To Mr. and Mrs. David Hummon, ten children have been born, Everett J., Zoe A., Bertha E., Charles Albert, Maude Velmah, Burl W., Maroa H., Glen Leo, Grover C., and one who died in infancy. Everett J., born on March 19, 1876, married Nellie Schifferly and has had four children, Dwight W. and triplets, Faith, Hope and Charity, who died at birth; Zoe A., born on May 5, 1878, died on August 10, 1879; Bertha E., born on November 27, 1879, married Floyd Foultz; Charles Albert, born on August 21, 1881, married Verna George and has one child, Genevieve R.; Maude Velmah, born on March 11, 1883, is single and at home. Burl W., born on February 4, 1887, died on January 26, 1888. Maroa H., born on February 14, 1889, is single and at home; Glen Leo, born on February 14, 1891, married Ida Amstut and has three children, Nevin B., Marvin D. and Marie E.; Grover C., born on May 8, 1893, is single and at home.

After his marriage, Mr. Hummon continued to live on the old home place. He has always engaged in farming. A few years ago, he made a practice of feeding and raising a great many cattle and hogs, in which occupation he has been very successful.

Mr. Hummon is a Democrat. He has been trustee of Riley township for three years and a member of the school board for several years. He is also a director in the Union Township Insurance Company, where he held this office for ten years. Mr. Hummon attends the United Brethren church, as well as his family, but Mrs. Hummon is a member of the Metho-

dist Protestant church. David Hummon is one of the best known and most popular citizens of the community in which he resides. He comes from an old and highly-honored family and is a progressive citizen, a man of high ideals and in this respect is like so many of his worthy forbearers who have preceded him.

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### E. D. KOHLI.

The success of a man in raising a high-grade of stock depends upon many qualities, but especially upon good judgment and patience. One of the well-known farmers of Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, who has made a splendid success in raising Percheron horses, and who today is regarded as an authority on this particular breed of horses, is E. D. Kohli. Mr. Kohli is one of the men of sterling worth and strength of character, who have contributed so much to the advancement of the commercial interests of Putnam county. So well known has Mr. Kohli become, as an expert judge of horses, that he was called to serve in this capacity at the Sandusky county fair, both in 1913, and in 1914, at the Wood county fair in 1913, at the Van Wert county fair in 1914, and at the Jay county (Indiana) fair in 1913. Mr. Kohli, himself, has won many prizes and is known as a man who breeds and raises the very best animals to be found anywhere.

E. D. Kohli was born on October 18, 1860, in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio. He is the son of John and Barbara (Hilty) Kohli. John Kohli was born in 1807, in Berne, Switzerland, and was the son of Frantz Kohli and wife. Frantz Kohli was a tailor in Switzerland, who came to America, about 1819, with his wife and three children, Elizabeth, John and Christian. All settled in Wayne county, and here Frantz Kohli continued to follow his trade as a tailor. He also operated a farm and lived here for several years. He then moved to Putnam county and settled about one mile west of Pandora. Later, he moved just southeast of Columbus Grove.

John Kohli, his son and the father of E. D., removed with his parents, while still a lad, from Wayne to Putnam county. Here he attended the district school and helped his father on the farm. He was married, first to Fannie Snively, whose parents came from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. To this union were born six sons and two daughters, Josiah, Samuel, Elizabeth, Andrew, Isaac, John, Eli and Sarah. John Kohli's first wife died, and he then married Mrs. Barbara (Steiner) Hilty. She had nine children



by her first marriage, Gideon, Mary, David, Peter, Barbara, Isaac, Elias, Noah and Fannie. By this second marriage, five children were born, Christian, Daniel, Emanuel, Adam and Amos. The last two died in infancy. John Kohli lived in a number of places in Allen county, and when E. D. was born, he lived about one mile northwest of Bluffton, in Richland township. He continued to live in this place for ten years. It was here that E. D. Kohli's mother, Barbara, died, when he was five years old. She was forty-five years of age at the time of her death. John Kohli then broke up housekeeping, and the children were placed with different families in the neighborhood. Three years after the wife's death, he gathered five of the youngest children together, Elias and Sarah, born to his first marriage, and Christian, Daniel, and E. D., born to his second, and moved south of Mishawaka, Indiana. Here he located on a farm, but remained there but a few years, when he returned to Allen county, Ohio. He resumed farming, and continued for about two years, when he broke up housekeeping again, and went to live with his eldest son, Josiah. A few months later he died, December 22, 1872.

E. D. Kohli continued to live with his brother until he was fourteen years of age. He then went to live with his eldest half-sister, Mrs. Mary (Steiner) Thut. The following spring he went to live with his cousin, Isaac Hilty, for whom he worked at odd times for a period of six years.

E. D. Kohli was married on December 7, 1882, at the age of twenty-two to Sarah Schumacher, the daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Suter) Schumacher. Peter Schumacher was a native of Basel, Switzerland, whose family history is to be found in the sketch of Noah Schumacher, contained elsewhere in this volume. His wife was a native of Alsace, and the daughter of Christian Suter.

After his marriage, E. D. Kohli purchased a farm of eighty acres from Jacob and Virgil Stewart. This farm lies three and one-half miles northeast of Pandora, and consists of eighty acres and has been the home of Mr. Kohli ever since. When he purchased this, only forty-two acres had been cleared, but it had a good two-story house, which was destroyed by fire later. Mr. Kohli cleared the balance of the land and built a splendid modern residence of nine rooms, also a large barn, forty-eight by seventy feet, and other outbuildings.

For twenty-five years Mr. Kohli has been an extensive breeder of thoroughbred Percheron horses, and has been very successful. He has exhibited at the fairs in Putnam and adjoining counties, and has taken a generous share of blue ribbons. He now owns "Roland D.," a three-year-old,

weighing about twenty-two hundred and fifty pounds, upon which he won first prize as weanling stud at the Illinois state fair, Springfield, and also first prize as a yearling stallion at the same fair. He also has fourteen other thoroughbred prize-winning stallions, mares and colts.

Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Kohli have been the parents of ten children, all of whom are living. There are six sons and four daughters, as follow: Aldine, married Susan Geiger, and they have three children, Margaret, Lavagn, and Mandona, the last of whom died on February 20, 1915; Peter married Rose Kiene; Elizabeth is the wife of Clare Green; Edward is unmarried, and lives at home; Homer is a student at Ohio State University, where he is taking an electrical engineering course; Hiram Susan, Orlin, Martha, and Odula are at home.

Mr. Kohli is a Democrat, but he has never held office, and has never aspired to prominence in political life. He is a member of St. John's Mennonite church, and Mrs. Kohli is likewise a faithful and devoted member. Mr. Kohli is one of the community's most substantial citizens. He is a man of high ideals, and worthy ambitions, and deserves credit for the success he has made in life.

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#### EDD. B. SIMONDS.

The Simonds family were early pioneer settlers in Putnam county, Ohio, and the father of Edd. B. Simonds was born in the early forties in this county. Mr. Simonds was reared on a farm and has always engaged in agricultural pursuits. In the fall of 1913, he was elected trustee of Van Buren township on the Republican ticket, although his township is normally Democratic. His election speaks well for his reputation as a citizen and attests to his high standing in the community.

Edd. B. Simonds, the son of George W. and Mary E. (Foltz) Simonds, was born in Van Buren township, Putnam county, Ohio, August 13, 1873. His parents reared a family of seven children, four of whom are living. E. B., Wiler W., Mrs. Gertrude Kober, and Mrs. Carrie Shipe.

George W. Simonds, the son of Justice and Lourana Simonds, was born near Gilboa, Putnam county, Ohio, February 28, 1843, and died June 25, 1908. At the age of nineteen he enlisted as a private in Company D, Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in which company he served four months. He re-enlisted as a corporal in Company C, Eighty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, June 4, 1862, and served with

this company three months. He again enlisted as a corporal in Company B, One Hundred and Ninety-sixth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in March, 1865, from which company he was mustered out on September 11, 1865.

George W. Simonds was married on March 19, 1868, to Mary E. Foltz, and in the spring of 1870 he moved to what is now known as the "George Simonds Farm" and remained there until the fall of 1902. In that year they moved to Leipsic, where he lived the remainder of his life.

Among other offices, George W. Simonds served as township trustee from 1888 to 1892. He was president of the soldiers and sailors' relief commission for ten years, being appointed by Judge Handy. He was elected a director of the Putnam County Fair board in 1904 and was re-elected in 1907. In the same year, he was elected president of the board and again re-elected in 1908. He was a Republican in politics, and a member of the Church of Christ. In all respects, George W. Simonds was a good citizen, a valiant soldier and a man universally admired and respected on account of his sterling qualities of character. His widow died on February 14, 1914.

Edd B. Simonds spent his boyhood days on his father's farm northeast of Leipsic. He attended the common schools of Van Buren township and later took a normal course of two terms at Leipsic. After reaching his maturity he still remained on the farm and at the age of twenty-five took entire charge of it, his parents moving to Leipsic. He has now been farming the old home place for several years, meeting with excellent success in all of his operations.

Mr. Simonds was married on October 29, 1902, to Jennie V. Baughman, and to this union three sons have been born, Alton, Clare and Robert, all of whom are still at home and now attending the public schools.

Mrs. Simonds was born just east of Leipsic, July 15, 1879, and is a daughter of Frank and Mollie Baughman, both of whom were born and reared in Putnam county, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Baughman were the parents of three children, George, who married Myrtle Peckenpaugh, and had one daughter; Jennie, the wife of Mr. Simonds, and Delia, who is single and still living at home.

Mr. Simonds has been a staunch supporter of the Republican party since reaching his majority, and is now filling the important office of township trustee, to the entire satisfaction of his fellow citizens. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons at Leipsic, while his church relations are with the Church of Christ, his wife also being a member of this denomination. Mr. Simonds is a wide-awake and energetic citizen and deeply

concerned with the general welfare of the community, where he expects to spend the remainder of his life.

Mrs. Simonds died on February 14, 1915. Mr. Simonds is keeping the home for the boys.

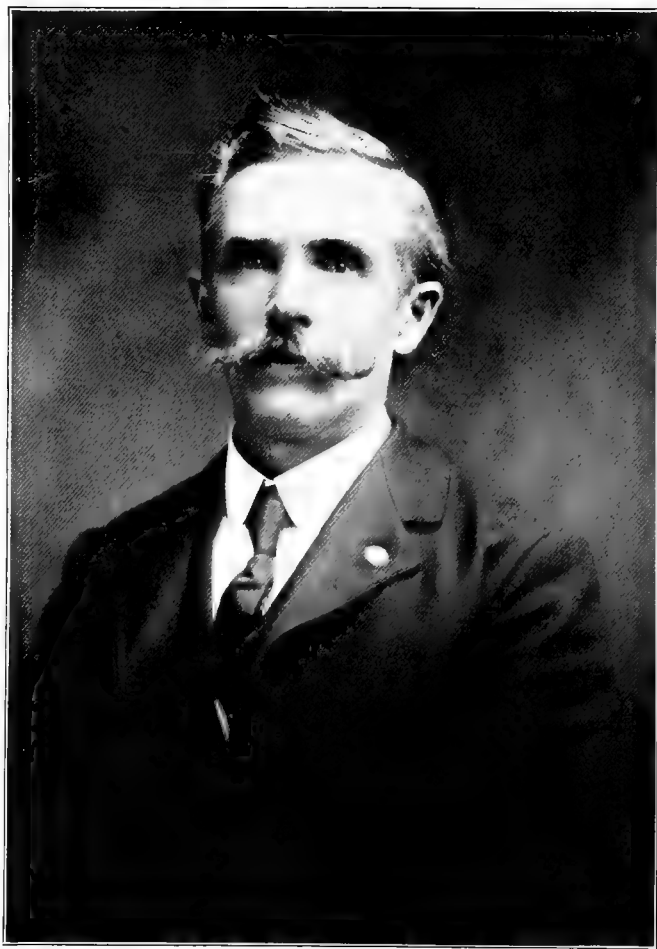
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### THEODORE HECKMAN.

The present recorder of Putnam county, Ohio, is Theodore Heckman, who was born at Glandorf, this county, and has spent his whole career within its limits. His parents are of German descent, and his father was a blacksmith at Glandorf in this county for many years. Mr. Hackman is an expert blacksmith and was following that line of work when he was elected recorder of Putnam county. He has taken an active part in the life of his community and has filled various official positions before assuming the duties of the recorder's office.

Theodore Heckman, the son of Henry and Catherine (Evers) Heckman, was born at Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, October 12, 1858. His father was born on October 29, 1830, at Barlo Kreis, Bezirk Borken, Westphalia, Prussia, and came to this country with his parents when he was seventeen years of age. Upon arriving in this country, Henry Heckman learned the blacksmith trade at Cincinnati, Ohio. From there he went to Glandorf, Putnam county, where he resided until his death, following his trade until 1893, when he retired from active work. Henry Heckman was an industrious man and an expert blacksmith. He was trustee of the present church at Glandorf, which was built in the years 1875 to 1878. His wife, Catherine Evers, was born in Germany and arrived in this country with her parents when a young girl, settling at New Cleveland, Ohio. Henry Heckman and Catherine Evers were married on October 23, 1855, and celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1905. To this union six children were born, three of whom are still living and residing at Glandorf, Theodore, Mary and Joseph. Mary is the wife of Barney Drørup. Two children died in infancy, and William died in 1910 at the age of thirty-nine.

Theodore Heckman grew to maturity at Glandorf and there received his education. While still a lad he began to work with his father in the blacksmith shop and learned the trade thoroughly. He not only acquired the rudiments of blacksmithing, but all of the fine points of the business. He knew how to temper and weld and make edged tools of various kinds. Theodore



THEODORE HECKMAN.



followed this trade at Glandorf with his father until the latter retired at the age of sixty, after which he operated the shop alone until his election as recorder of Putnam county.

Mr. Heckman has been a life-long Democrat, and has always taken an active interest in the welfare of his party. He was treasurer of Ottawa township for four years, and for the past twenty years has been a member of the school board of Glandorf. He has been second secretary of the Glandorf German Building and Loan Association for the past eighteen years. In the fall of 1912 he was elected recorder of Putnam county and took his office in September, 1913. In the administration of the duties of this important office he is exercising the same painstaking and careful attention to details which has characterized his work all through his life.

Mr. Heckman was married, in 1880, to Maria Lehmkuhle, who was born at Glandorf, and is a daughter of Charles and Elizabeth (Uphaus) Lehmkuhle. Her parents were of German descent, and both of them grew up in Glandorf. The Lehmkuhle family and the Uphaus family both came from Glandorf, Germany, and located in Putnam county, Ohio, early in its history. To this first union of Mr. Heckman were born four children, Charles, Maggie, Louis and Clara. Charles is in the Bank of Ottawa. He married Dora Unverferth and has two children, George and Margaret. Maggie is the wife of Lawrence Myer, and lives at Lima, Ohio. Louis, who married Sophia Wannamaker, is the principal of the high school at Ottoville, Ohio. Clara is at home with her father. The mother of these four children died in 1897, and two years later Mr. Heckman married Catherine Kerkemeier, who was born at Glandorf, in this county, and is a daughter of Henry and Catherine (Lauf) Kerkemeier. Her father was a carpenter at Glandorf and a native of Germany, as was his wife. To this second marriage have been born three children, Harry, Agnes and Annie.

Henry Kerkemeier, the father of Mrs. Heckman, was born at Delmuck, West Phalen, Prussia, and arrived in America in 1853. His wife, Catherine Lauf, was born in July, 1825, and died in this country March 3, 1912. They lived all their lives in Glandorf, this county. Mr. Kerkemeier built the present church at New Cleveland.

Mr. Heckman and his family are all loyal members of the Catholic church at Glandorf and he is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio. He is a man universally respected and no official better administers the duties of office than Mr. Heckman. He is essentially a self-made man, and his present prosperity is due to his own efforts.

## JOHN THOMPSON MALLAHAN.

By some power inherent, man is capable of forging ahead in his life's vocation. There are many elements which make for success, of which industry is perhaps the most important. The farmer, especially, must be industrious to succeed. But in these latter days farming, likewise, is dependent upon good management, a knowledge of soil, marketing facilities, prices, skillful rotation of crops, and the raising of good breeds of live stock. John Thompson Mallahan is an enterprising and successful farmer of Riley township and one who has been honored by the citizens of Putnam county and holds the important office of county commissioner. Throughout his career, Mr. Mallahan has been a power in Putnam county politics, and is looked upon today as one of the important leaders in both its civic and social life.

Mr. Mallahan was born on May 27, 1853, in Hancock county. He is the son of Charles F. and Jane (Downing) Mallahan. Charles F. Mallahan was born September 26, 1818, in Fairfield county, Ohio, in a part which later became a part of Franklin county. Charles F. Mallahan was a son of Thompson and Sarah (Clymer) Mallahan, the former of whom was a native of Kentucky, born about 1790. It is supposed that his parents emigrated from Virginia to eastern Kentucky and resided in or near Breathitt county. Thompson Mallahan was a soldier in the War of 1812. After the war, he settled in Fairfield county, where he was married to Sarah Clymer. They were the parents of seven children, three of whom died of cholera. Another died about ten years later. After the cholera epidemic, the remaining three grew to maturity. They were Charles F. Rolly, and Nancy, who married John McDowell.

During the cholera epidemic at Columbus, 1832-1833, Thompson Mallahan was one of the first victims. Charles F. Mallahan also suffered an attack of the deadly malady, but survived. About two years later, in 1835, when Charles F. Mallahan was seventeen years old, his mother removed to Hancock county, where he cared for her and the children. William died here at the age of ten or twelve years. Shortly after moving to Hancock county, Charles F. Mallahan's mother married Owen Street, by whom two other children were born, Sarah Jane and Louisa. Charles F. Mallahan was married in 1847, when he was twenty-nine years old, to Jane Downing, daughter of John and Mary (Boiler) Downing. John Downing was a na-



tive of Kentucky, and his wife, Mary (Boiler) Downing, a native of Virginia. Jane Downing was born on January 25, 1817, in Pike county, Ohio.

After his marriage, Charles F. Mallahan lived on a farm in Union township, Hancock county, three miles north of Mount Cory. Here he lived until 1861, and moved to near Moffit Station. He moved one and one-half miles west of Benton Ridge on the Ridge road, in 1863, and in 1866 he sold out everything and moved to Kansas. He returned to Hancock county, in 1867, locating three and one-half miles west of Findlay. He moved to the northwest part of Riley township, Putnam county in 1872, where he purchased one hundred and eighty acres of land. This was his last residence. He died here on December 30, 1877. Charles F. and Jane Mallahan had five children, Rusena became the wife of John C. Lee and died in 1867; David, born 1850, died in infancy; Sarah is unmarried and lives with her brother; John T. is the subject of this sketch. Mary became the wife of Charles F. Alkire. Mrs. Jane (Downing) Mallahan died at her son's home on April 25, 1914, at the ripe old age of ninety-seven years.

John Thompson Mallahan remained with his parents during his youth, coming with them from Hancock to Putnam county, in 1872. On account of his father's feeble health, John Thompson relieved him of the most arduous duties of the farm.

At the age of twenty-two, Mr. Mallahan was married on November 5, 1876, to Rebecca A. Carr, who was born on November 7, 1856, Pleasant township. She is the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Sawmiller) Carr. Jacob was born in Ross county, Ohio, June 9, 1819, and died in Putnam county, Ohio, November 21, 1910. His wife was born on April 9, 1821, in Pennsylvania, and died on August 13, 1909, in Putnam county.

After his marriage, Mr. Mallahan continued to make his residence at the old home place. He had practical charge of operating the farm, which was divided, John Thompson retaining that portion on which the old home place is located, and as a farmer has prospered. A few years ago he was a successful breeder of Poland-China hogs. He and his associate, George W. Pope, were the first stock men to introduce thoroughbred Poland-China hogs in Putnam county. Until recently he has been a successful breeder of cattle for the market.

Mr. and Mrs. John Thompson Mallahan have six children, Norval E. was born on August 11, 1877; Chloe L. was born on December 30, 1878; Mary Jane, born on January 24, 1881, is the wife of C. A. Countryman. They have one child, Lucile; Florence C., born on August 23, 1885, is unmarried and lives at home; Charles F., born on March 14, 1887, married

Versa Rymer. They have one child, John R., and live at Spring Lake, Michigan; Lenora R., born on October 21, 1895, died December 3, 1896.

Throughout his life, Mr. Mallahan has been a Democrat. He has served as commissioner of Putnam county for seven years and has discharged the duties of this office in a highly satisfactory manner. He also served as justice of the peace for three years, and was a member of the school board for several years. He was a member of the Putnam county agricultural board for fifteen years, and for four years of this time served as vice-president. For five years he was president of this body. Mr. Mallahan attends the Methodist Protestant church, of which Mrs. Mallahan is a devoted member. He is a member of No. 325, Free and Accepted Masons, of the Chapter No. 125, of the Council No. 69. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 565, at Ottawa.

John Thompson Mallahan is one of Putnam county's most prominent and substantial citizens, a man well and favorably known, as is evidenced by the numerous offices conferred upon him by the people. Mr. Mallahan was one of the organizers of the Mutual Telephone Company in 1903. He has been president of this company until quite recently, and is still a director in the company. Mr. Mallahan has also been one of the organizers of the Assembly of Mutual Telephone Companies, composed of thirty-two mutual telephone companies, the object of which is to conserve the interests of the different companies and to secure better and more adequate long distance service. Mr. Mallahan has been secretary of this organization since its formation, in 1904.

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### JOHN FRANKLIN CARVER.

A resident of Putnam county, Ohio, since 1880, John Franklin Carver has been engaged in agricultural pursuits since that year. He rented the farm on which he is now living for a few years and then purchased it and has made extensive improvements since acquiring it.

John Franklin Carver, the son of Gilbert and Rebecá (Nutt) Carver, was born near Delta, Fulton county, Ohio, August 17, 1857. His father was born in New York state, December 29, 1831, and died in Fulton county, December 16, 1880. Gilbert Carver was the son of A. B. Carver, and at the age of seven moved with his parents to Hillsdale, Michigan, where his father, A. B. Carver, entered government land and lived the remainder of his days.

A. B. Carver was a great hunter and for years kept his family supplied with fresh meat as the result of his prowess with the rifle.

Gilbert Carver was educated in Michigan and attended the primitive log school houses which were in use in his day. When he was about twenty-two years of age, Gilbert Carver came to Fulton county, Ohio, and married Rebecca Nutt, who was born in England in May, 1838, and died in February, 1902. She was a daughter of John Nutt and came to America, at the age of twelve, with her parents.

Before settling in Fulton county, Gilbert Carver enlisted in the Sixty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served during the Civil War. He spent the remainder of his life in Fulton county. He farmed in a number of places and finally settled in Swan Creek township, where he owned one hundred and twenty acres of excellent land at the time of his death. Gilbert Carver and wife were the parents of seven children, John F., Leipsic, Ohio; Louis N., Fulton county; Clara, deceased, who was the wife of Charles Urbin; George William, of Mt. Gilead, Ohio; Albert, of Toledo; Emma, the wife of Arthur Raker, of Fulton county, and Charles Frederick, of Rose City, Michigan.

John Franklin Carver was reared on his father's farm and attended the neighboring schools. After his marriage he located in Fulton county, but two years later, in the fall of 1880, he moved to Putnam county, where he rented a farm seven miles northeast of Leipsic. Nine years later he bought this same farm and has since made it his residence.

Mr. Carver was married to Elizabeth Urbin, who was born on March 16, 1858, near Findlay, Ohio. She is a daughter of Andrew and Barbara Urbin, natives of Saxony, Germany, who came to America in 1848 and settled in Findlay, Ohio, living there until their death. Andrew Urbin was an expert stock raiser, his specialty being hogs and horses. Mr. Carver and wife are the parents of five children, four of whom are living, Cora A., Ora May and Rolla J. Cora A. is the wife of Elmer Otto, a farmer of this county, and has five children, Irwin, Hester, Warren, Wanita and Rolla. Ora May is the wife of Clyde Pickens, a farmer of this county, and has five children, Raymond, Vernon, James, Florence and Ernest. Rolla J. married Edith Baker, and has two children, Elizabeth and Dorothy; Albert married Vurah Hook, and has one child, Inez. Albert farms the home place.

Rolla J. Carver is a graduate of the Ohio State University, where he took the course in veterinary science. A few years ago he received an appointment in a minor position in the food inspection department of the city of Columbus, Ohio, and in this position he demonstrated his ability

to such an advantage that in a short time he was promoted to the position of chief of the food inspection department with a large force of assistants under him. To his skill, in this important position, depends to a very large degree the health of the people of Columbus.

John F. Carver is a staunch Republican, but has never been an aspirant for public office. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Belmore. He holds his membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, while his wife is a member of the Lutheran denomination. His eldest daughter, Myrtle, died in infancy.

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#### DAVID H. CARR.

In examining the life records of self-made men, it will invariably be found that indefatigable industry has constituted the basis of their success. True, there are other elements which enter into and conserve the advancement of their personal interests, such as perseverance, discrimination and the mastering of expedients, but the foundation of all achievements is earnest, persistent labor. At the outset of his career, David H. Carr recognized this fact. He has never sought any royal road to success and independence, but has worked earnestly and diligently to advance himself, which result is obvious. Mr. Carr is now numbered among the most substantial farmers of Putnam county, and, aside from his extensive property interests, he has a beautiful farm and a large modern residence and barn, as well as other buildings in keeping with his general improvements.

Mr. Carr was born in Eden township, Licking county, Ohio, August 10, 1832. He is the son of Thomas and Mary (Shannon) Carr. Thomas Carr was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, 1798, and came to Ohio in the early days. When a young man he settled in Licking county. Here he was married to Mary Shannon, daughter of William Shannon and wife. To this union were born ten children, Susan, William, Mary, all of whom died in childhood; another child also died in infancy; Rachel, now deceased, was the wife of Hartford Harmon; David H. is the subject of this sketch; Eliza is the wife of Michael Eck; Chambers was the next child born; Rebecca is the wife of Simon Sherman; Nancy is the wife of John Leffler.

In the fall of 1853, Thomas Carr moved from Licking county to Putnam county and located in Liberty township, five miles northwest of Leipsic.

Here he purchased eighty acres of William Beckford. The purchase price was a horse and two hundred dollars in money. Part of this farm Mr. Carr later sold, and the remainder he traded for a house in the old town of Leipsic. He traded this property for a residence in the new town of Leipsic and here he lived until his death, about 1880.

When David H. Carr's parents were living in Liberty township, he made a trip to Indiana and Iowa for a horse. He went to twelve miles south of Ft. Wayne on horse-back and from there to Rock Island, Illinois, by train, thence by stage to Des Moines and returned. He made this trip with a cousin, who was one his way to Des Moines to buy a farm. Failing to find the kind of place they wanted, they returned to Ft. Wayne and it is here that David H. Carr worked for some time at a shingle factory to earn money to enable himself to return home.

When David H. Carr was twenty-three years old, he was married to Lydia Rothen. The marriage took place in the winter of 1855-56. His wife was born on February 20, 1840. She died on October 19, 1889. She was the daughter of David and Barbara Rothen, who were natives of Berlin, Germany. They came to America after their marriage and settled in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. Here David Rothen entered one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government. He also purchased other land until he owned two hundred and eighty acres. He and his wife were the parents of six children, Maria, Jane, Lydia, Theophilus, Benjamin and Persius.

After his marriage, Mr. Carr farmed the place of his wife's mother for five or six years. Mr. Carr and his brother-in-law, William Altman, then went to Kalida, which was the county seat at that time, and purchased a farm of eighty acres, sold by the sheriff for seven hundred dollars. Each took a half interest, or forty acres. Each then built a log cabin and engaged in farming.

David H. Carr and wife had three children, Mary Jane, Thomas J. and Barbara Ellen. After the Civil War broke out and in the fall of 1862, Mr. Carr entered the Union army with Company K, Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was attached to the Army of the Tennessee under General Rosencrans and participated in the battle of Stone's River and the campaign against General Bragg. He was mustered out at Dekert's Station, Tennessee, in the fall of 1863, after which he returned home. He continued to improve his farm and also rented some additional land to farm while he was clearing his own land. He purchased eighty acres one and one-fourth miles northwest of the home place and then purchased forty

acres to the west of his first forty acres. He then bought his brother-in-law's place and had at this time two hundred acres in all. Later, he built his present residence on the last forty acres. In the meantime he had built a large barn. Afterward he traded his eighty-acre tract to the northwest side of his farm, for forty acres west of the north side. He received sixteen hundred dollars in cash and a twenty-acre wheat crop. This gave him one hundred and sixty acres, all in one tract.

Subsequently, eight more children were born to Mr. Carr and wife, Theophilus L., Persius, Julia, Lucy and William Garfield; Lucy died at the age of three years; William Garfield, the only one of the children at home, married Eva Deitler, daughter of George and Marie (Amstutz) Deitler, both of whom were natives of Switzerland. They came to America and settled at Muskegon, Michigan, about 1883. The other children were: Mary Jane, Thomas J. and Barbara Ellen.

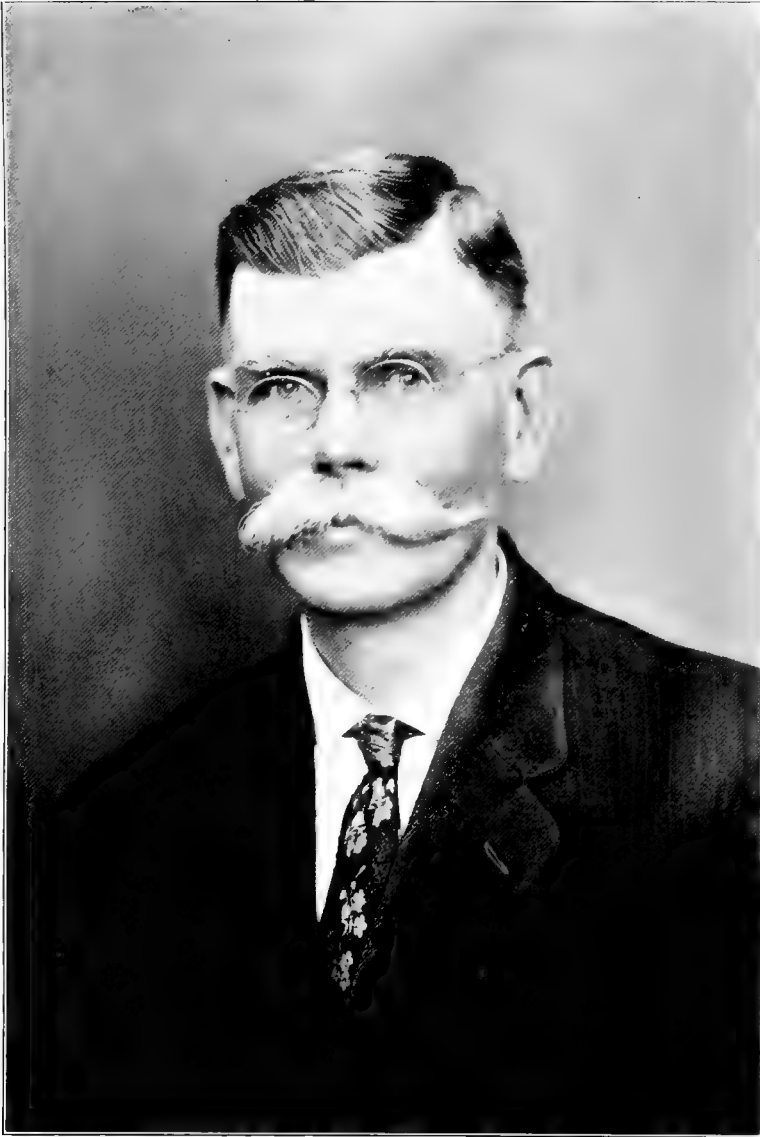
David H. Carr has always done general farming and has been very successful in this vocation. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic of Robert Hamilton Post No. 62, and in politics is an ardent Republican. He is a progressive farmer, a man of the highest ideals and of worthy ambitions.

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#### WILLIAM ALEXANDER BELL.

The first member of the Bell family came to Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, in the early forties. The grandfather of William Alexander Bell was in the War of 1812, and started a shoe shop in Ottawa during the early forties, where he lived the remainder of his life. However, William A. Bell was born in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, but has lived in this county since 1855, and most of the time he has lived in or near Leipsic. He has been engaged in farming and merchandising in Leipsic, although within the last few years he has given all of his attention to insurance. Mr. Bell remembers when the present site of Leipsic was covered with timber, swamps, and he himself farmed the land from Easton street west. In those early days hoop-poles, squirrels and wild game were the medium of exchange, and live stock had to be driven on foot to Findlay for market.

William Alexander Bell, the son of Alexander and Eleanor (White) Bell, was born in 1852, in Sheffield, Beaver county, Pennsylvania. His father was a son of George Bell, who came from Scotland to New York and later to Pennsylvania, where he was living at the time of the War of 1812.



WILLIAM A. BELL.





He joined a Pennsylvania regiment and helped to cut the Perrysburg road, between St. Marys and Fort Meigs, Ohio, and helped to build Fort Meigs. In the early forties George Bell located in Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, where he engaged in the shoemaker's trade. Later he moved to West Leipsic and spent most of the remainder of his life in that place. He entered a tract of government land a mile and a half north of Leipsic and lived on it a part of the time, dying on his farm in 1856. George Bell's wife was Mary McKinley, a member of the same family as the President.

Alexander Bell was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, in 1816, and was married, in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, to Eleanor White, a native of that county. She was born in 1814. Alexander Bell, like his father, was a shoemaker, and also operated a hotel at Sheffield. A year before his father's death, in 1855, Alexander Bell came to Putnam county and located on the farm where his father died a year later. He then remained on this farm until the Civil War. He moved to Leipsic and went into the shoemaking business. He employed several men making boots and shoes to order and conducted a shoe shop the remainder of his life. He took an active interest in local public affairs, and held various official positions. He died in 1888, and his wife passed away the following year. Alexander Bell was a very energetic and public-spirited man, and during the war organized two separate companies of one hundred men each. He could not go himself on account of his age, although he sent two of his sons, Arthur and George, to the front. William A. was not old enough to go, but he assisted his father in hauling wood, flour, potatoes and provisions of various kinds to the war widows in the county.

William A. Bell has lived in or around Leipsic since he was three years of age. He operated the home farm until 1887, and then moved to Leipsic and opened the Nickel Plate House and managed it until 1889. He then spent a year in the lumber business, after which he was in a grocery for five years. He then sold his grocery and went into partnership in another grocery store with Charles C. Huber. He disposed of his interests in the grocery store and engaged in the insurance business with John D. Hyde in 1898. Three years later Mr. Hyde was succeeded in the firm by A. A. Slaybaugh, and Mr. Bell and Mr. Slaybaugh have since continued in partnership.

While Mr. Bell lived in West Leipsic he was a member of the town council and has been president of the Leipsic board of public affairs for the past eight years. He has been a life-long Republican and was formerly active in his party, serving as a committeeman for ten years. During the past few years he has not been so active in his party, although he still takes an intelligent interest in its councils.

Mr. Bell was married in 1875 to Olive S. McConnell, who was born south of Leipsic and is a daughter of Isaac and Mary (Lowry) McConnell. Her parents came to this county from near Youngstown, Ohio, during the early fifties, and her father farmed south of Leipsic the remainder of his life. The first wife of Mr. Bell died in 1897, leaving three children, Effa, William Clayton and Fred Mark. Effa is the wife of Wesley Lewis, of Leipsic; William C., of Fort Wayne, Indiana, married Nina Foltz, and has two children, Mary and William; Fred Mark makes his home at Leipsic, where he is employed by the Nickel Plate Railway Company.

Mr. Bell was married again in 1899, to Lillie B. King, who was born at Ligonier, Indiana, and is a daughter of Isaac and Christina (Gerber) King. She lived in Ligonier until the time of her marriage and her father is still farming at that place. To the second marriage of Mr. Bell have been born four children, Gertrude, Eleanor, George Alexander and Robert L.

Mr. Bell is a member of the Knights of Pythias. He was a United Presbyterian until that organization was abandoned at Leipsic, when he became affiliated with the Lutheran church, his wife being a member of that church. Mr. Bell has an unusually good memory, and having been a witness of the growth of Leipsic from its earliest history, is one of the best-informed men in the city on the early life of the community. He spent about three weeks in the county recorder's office, helping to straighten out the plats and description of town lots, which were vague and contradictory. He was probably the best man in the city to do this work, in view of the fact that he had personal knowledge of nearly every lot in the city. Mr. Bell is an energetic and wide-awake citizen and deeply interested in the welfare of the community where he has spent his whole life.

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#### PETER P LUGIBIHL.

The province of Alsace, formerly a part of France, but now a part of Germany, and at the present time one of the battle grounds of the greatest war of history, which may any week again change the sovereignty of the province, has produced many of America's most valued citizens. The natives of that province came, many of them, during the early pioneer days and played important parts in the development of this country. From their ranks have sprung representatives of every important branch of human endeavor. They have produced famous artists, noted engineers and eminent

professional men of every type. From them have also sprung many of the most expert and successful farmers, to whom the country has been, and yet is, deeply indebted for much of its prosperity. The pioneers from Alsace paved the way and laid the foundation, and their descendants have most ably builded on those same foundations until today they are found, worthy sons of worthy fathers, occupying places in the forefront of all branches of American life. And in this respect Putnam county, Ohio, has been fortunate indeed, counting among its prized citizens many of Alsatian descent, among which the Lugibihl family ranks second to none in point of value to the community.

Peter P. Lugibihl, the subject of this sketch, was born in Riley township, Putnam county, August 19, 1867, a son of Christian and Mary (Schumacher) Lugibihl. Christian Lugibihl was born in Riley township on March 16, 1847, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Christian Lugibihl, Sr. Mrs. Lugibihl's maiden name was Hilty.

Christian Lugibihl, Sr., was born in Belfort, Alsace, France, and passed his youth in that province, where he became a veterinary surgeon of the early type which were called, in those days, by the more rugged title of "horse doctors." He came to America in 1835 or 1836 in company with his wife and his brother, John. They settled first in Holmes county, Ohio, but shortly afterward moved to Riley township, Putnam county, where Christian Lugibihl entered three hundred and twenty acres of government land, situated about two miles east of Pandora. It was there that Peter P. Lugibihl's father grew up on the old homestead, one of nine children. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Lugibihl, were: Magdalene, Catherine, David, John, Elizabeth, Christian, Adam, Barbara and Mary. Mr. Lugibihl died about 1853, when Christian, Jr., was about six years of age. Mrs. Lugibihl lived only a short time after her husband's death.

After his mother died, Christian Lugibihl, Jr., was taken by his mother's sister, Elizabeth (Elsie) Geiger, who lived about four miles east of Columbus Grove, at that time in Putnam county, but which later became a part of Richland township, Allen county. Mr. Lugibihl remained with his aunt's family until he was sixteen years of age, at which time he learned the carpenter's trade and worked in various sections of the neighborhood. While living with his aunt, he attended one of the typical log-cabin schools and assisted in the work about the farm. During that time he helped in making the home-made bricks of which his aunt's second home was built.

After three years of shifting for himself, Mr. Lugibihl, in November, 1866, when he was nineteen years of age, married Mary Schumacher, who

was born in Richland township, Allen county, March 10, a daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Suter) Schumacher. Both of Mrs. Lugibihl's parents were of pioneer stock. After their marriage they lived for a short time on the old homestead. Then, when their own home had been finished, on a section of eighty acres of the homestead, Mr. Lugibihl took up the vocation of farming. He later bought from his sisters eighty acres, thus making his holdings total one hundred and sixty acres.

Mr. and Mrs. Christian Lugibihl had eleven children, who were: Peter P., the subject; Benjamin Franklin; Susan and Lydia, both of whom died in childhood; Martha, Elizabeth, Gideon, Mary, Alvin, David and Orville.

Peter P. Lugibihl spent his childhood on the west eighty of the old homestead, where he attended the district school. He then took a preparatory course of three terms at Angola, Indiana, after which he taught school for two years. When he was twenty-three years of age, March 10, 1892, he married Catherine (Katie) Gilliom, who was born on October 6, 1870, in Adams county, Indiana, a daughter of John and Mary (Sprunger) Gilliom.

After his marriage, Mr. Lugibihl rented a house on Benjamin Schumacher's farm and, in the following spring, he and Daniel Schumacher rented the George Dukes farm, in Riley township, about four miles east of Pandora. The farm consisted of two hundred and sixty acres, which the two men farmed on a partnership basis for the following four years. At the end of that period, Mr. Lugibihl moved to the northeast eighty of the old Lugibihl homestead, where he has since made his home. He has developed the farm along lines of general farming, but has specialized in the raising and feeding of hogs for market, a line of business in which he has met with marked success.

To Mr. and Mrs. Peter P. Lugibihl nine children have been born, as follow: Edna Marie, Sylvia Viola, Lydia Ann, Raymond Gilliom, Ralph LaVerne, Eldon Paul, Christian John, Treva Marcella, all of whom live at home, and Mary Catherine, who died in infancy.

Mr. Lugibihl is a supporter of the Democratic party and has always taken an intelligent interest in the political affairs of his community. He has served one term as county assessor, the duties of which office he discharged with great success.

He is very prominent in all local affairs and is identified with some of the community's most important business enterprises. He is an appraiser for the Mennonite Mutual Aid Society, a fire insurance company; is secre-

tary of the farmers' institute, and is also president of the Mutual Telephone Company, in which company he was elected a director, last year.

Mr. and Mrs. Lugibihl and their three oldest daughters are members of the Grace Mennonite church, in which they are all active supporters and earnest workers.

Mr. Lugibihl is an energetic, progressive farmer and a prominent and influential citizen. He is a man of high principles and stands well in his community, both as a citizen and as a man.

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#### DAVID RISSEK.

A Union soldier in the war between the states builded wiser than he knew. Through four years of suffering and hardships, the horrors of prison pens and amid the shadows of death, he laid the superstructure of the greatest temple ever erected and dedicated to human freedom. The world looked on and called those soldiers sublime, because it was theirs to reach out the mighty arm of power and strike the chains from off the slaves, preserve the country from dissolution and unfurl to the breeze the only flag that has ever made tyrants tremble, whose majestic stripes and scintillating stars are still waving universal liberty to all of the earth. For all the unmeasured deeds, the living present will never repay them. Pension and political power may be thrown at their feet, art and sculpture may preserve upon canvas and in granite and bronze, their unselfish deeds. History may commit to books, and cold type may give to the future, the tales of their sufferings and triumph, yet to the children of the generations unborn will it remain to accord the full measure of appreciation and undying remembrance of the immortal character carved out by the American soldier in the dark days of the early sixties, prominent among whom was David Risser, the subject of this sketch.

David Risser, one of the most prominent bankers and farmers of Putnam county, Ohio, was born at Derkheim, Bavaria, Germany, April 5, 1840. He is the son of Abraham and Catherine (Sunzenich) Risser, the former of whom was a native of Bavaria, who in his young days engaged in teaming. Subsequently, he conducted a stage line from Derkheim and vicinity to Havre, France, for the convenience of the ocean travelers. This business was, after about ten years, supplanted by the first river steamer on the Rhine. Abraham Risser did an extensive business before the advent of the

steamer and after this, he resumed his teaming business. He and his wife had nine children, Abraham, Jr., Catherine, John, who died in Germany at the age of twenty-one; Jacob, Daniel, Henry, David, Christian, and Louis, who died in Germany at the age of two years.

Abraham Risser's wife died in Germany in the spring of 1856. The following autumn David Risser, his father and a young brother, Christian, came to America on a sailing vessel, landing in New York after a trip lasting forty-nine days. All of the other brothers had previously come to America. Abraham, Jr., the eldest, settled at Canandaigua, New York, where he was married and reared a large family and became very prosperous. He was a farmer and at one time controlled six hundred acres of land. The other sons settled in Putnam and Allen counties, Ohio, where they all followed farming, married and reared large families. All became prosperous citizens. Henry, who settled at Lima, specialized in flowers and truck gardening. Catherine was the only child who was married in Germany and was the wife of Frederick Cost. They settled at Pandora. She had one child, Elizabeth, who was born in Germany. Catherine lived about ten years after coming to America.

When David Risser arrived in America, he first went to Cleveland and there engaged in teaming. When the Civil War broke out, he enlisted in the Third New York Cavalry and served until December, 1865. He was attached to the Army of the Potomac and saw active service throughout the whole war. Unlike other soldiers, on account of personal services to the officers of his command, he was permitted to retain his horse at the close of the war. This horse had faithfully served him during the whole period of the war and only one other animal in the regiment survived. Mr. Risser was given transportation for himself and horse to Rochester, New York, from whence it was brought overland to Putnam county, Ohio. Possessed of unusual intelligence, this animal was unsurpassed as a saddle-horse. It is said that no fence was too high for him to jump and so perfectly was he trained that he could be ridden anywhere without saddle or bridle.

After the war, Mr. Risser settled on a farm one mile west of Pendleton, now Pandora, which he had purchased with his savings while in service. There were eighty acres in the original farm, which had upon it a house, partly of logs and partly of frame, and a barn. The land was only partially cleared.

Mr. Risser was married to Margaret Krohn on May 24, 1866, the daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Weaver) Krohn. Mrs. Risser was born in Butler

county, Ohio, January 5, 1844, and at the age of three months, was brought by her parents to Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. The family history of Mrs. Risser is to be found in the sketch of Henry Grismore, contained elsewhere in this volume.

David Risser and wife were the parents of eleven children, Samuel E., George W., William M., Minnie A., Irene, Jacob A., Elizabeth, Lena Alma, Ottillia, Louis D., and Edwin A. Samuel E. was born on June 30, 1867, and died on September 7, of the same year; George W., was born on October 30, 1868, and who died on December 11, 1914, was married to Clara Boyd. He was a lawyer by profession and was prosecuting attorney of Putnam county for two terms. He was prominent, politically, and was a leading lawyer in Ottawa and Putnam counties; William M., who was born on March 29, 1871, married Elizabeth Lenley, and had five children; Minnie A., who was born on April 27, 1873, is the wife of William Basinger and has had six children, one of whom is deceased; Irene was born on August 1, 1874, and died on November 5, 1879; Jacob A. was born on December 15, 1876, and died on August 21, 1877; Ottillia, who was born on September 11, 1882, is the wife of Otis McBride, of Lima, Ohio, and has one son; Elizabeth, who was born on July 15, 1878; Lena Alma, who was born on August 13, 1880; Lewis D., who was born on October 19, 1884, and Edwin, who was born on May 21, 1887, are all single and at home.

David Risser has always done general farming. He has added to his farm holdings from time to time until he now owns four hundred and seventy-six acres in addition to his other interests. He has been a large raiser and feeder of cattle and hogs for the market and is considered one of the most successful farmers in Putnam county. His home place is improved with a large, beautiful residence which has every modern convenience, also large and commodious barns and other buildings in keeping with the surroundings.

David Risser has been a life-long Democrat. He has served his community for six consecutive terms as trustee without any solicitation or effort on his part. It is a remarkable tribute to his character as a citizen and as a man. He is president of the Farmers Banking Company at Pandora and is interested in many other enterprises. Mrs. Risser, after a most beautiful and useful life, died on September 10, 1907, at the age of sixty-three. She was baptized in the Lutheran church and lived a most consistent Christian life, devoted to her husband and to her children. Mr. Risser has given his children every advantage that is possible. They have been well-educated in order that they might become useful citizens of the community where they

live. All of them have gratified their father and the memory of their mother by filling positions of prominence in the vicinities where they reside. The four children, who are at home, are members of the Presbyterian church, of Columbus Grove. His youngest sons, Louis and Edwin, are graduates of the agricultural department of Ohio State University, and are, therefore, well equipped to take up the active management of Mr. Risser's large farm holdings when his active career is finished. David Risser is a member of the Mennonite church, in which he was baptised in his native country of Germany at the age of sixteen, and is a member of Ogleby Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and has always been keenly interested in its work. He is a man who well deserves the universal esteem bestowed upon him by his neighbors and fellow citizens.

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#### REV FRANCIS NIGSCH.

A large proportion of the early settlers of Putnam county, Ohio, were Catholics, and from the beginning of the history of the county the Catholic citizen has been a prominent factor in the spiritual life of the people. The well-educated and thoroughly-trained priesthood has had charge of the spiritual needs of the people and has been instrumental in providing beautiful buildings of worship as well as substantial school buildings and residences for the pastors. The Rev. Francis A. Nigsch has had charge of St. Peter and Paul's church at Ottawa since 1903, and during the past twelve years has had the satisfaction of seeing his church increase in influence in this community. He is a man of broad education and catholic sympathies, and is not only well beloved by his own congregation, but highly esteemed by all in the community where he has labored so faithfully and well.

Rev. Francis Nigsch, the son of Francis A. and Regina (Erhart) Nigsch, was born at Blons, in Vorarlberg, in the northwestern part of Tyrol, near Switzerland, May 24, 1846. Both of his parents are deceased. Of the five children born to these parents, a sister lives in Austria and one brother is deceased, having been killed by a falling tree. The other three children were sons, and came to America, where two of them entered the priesthood.

Of these three brothers, Rev. Christian Nigsch came to the United States when a young man of twenty years, after having been well educated in his native land, and having taught in the public schools of Tyrol. He came to this country in 1868, and entered the seminary at Carthagen, Mercer





REV. FRANCIS NIGSCH.



county, Ohio, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1878 by Archbishop Purcell, in Cincinnati. His first appointment was in Jay county, Indiana, and his next charge was at the Church of St. John, in Mercer county, Ohio. He was next assigned to the Catholic church at Winamac, Puliska county, Indiana, and while pastor there he built a beautiful church. He was transferred to Minster, Auglaize county, Ohio, in 1885, where, after a ministration of five years, he died on November 25, 1890. Frederick Nigsch, another brother, came to America and died in 1873 while preparing himself for the priesthood.

Rev. Francis Nigsch came to the United States in 1866, when he was twenty years of age, and entered the theological seminary at Carthagen, Ohio. He had already received his classical education in his native land and spent five years more at Carthagen, preparing himself for the priesthood. He was ordained by Archbishop Purcell, of Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1872, and was given a charge in Mercer county, Ohio, which was retained by him for about eighteen months. He was then transferred to the Church of St. Mary, in Auglaize county, Ohio, where he was stationed for seven months. The following three months were spent at Minster, Ohio, in the same county, where he acted as assistant pastor. The next year he was given a charge in the state of Missouri, and from 1878 to 1881 had charge of the congregation at Wapakoneta, Ohio. He was appointed to the pastorate at Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1881, where he remained until 1889. Father Nigsch is a progressive and indefatigable man in his labors, and the beneficial results of the church at Glandorf eloquently testify to his ability. He liquidated a church debt of fourteen thousand dollars at Glandorf, and in addition raised a large sum for furnishing the church, an amount probably three times the debt which he paid, when coming to Glandorf.

Father Nigsch traveled extensively in Europe in 1889, and while on the continent he visited Rome, and on June 23 of that year was received by Pope Leo XIII. Upon returning to this country, he again assumed charge of the church at Glandorf, and continued the active discharge of his duties at that place until the end of January, 1897. For the next nine months he was stationed at St. John, Mercer county, Ohio, and in October, 1897, he went to Fort Wayne, Indiana, and organized the Church of the Precious Blood, erecting a school building as well as a church. He started the school at Fort Wayne with eight grades and an initial enrollment of one hundred and fifty pupils. The church building was erected in 1898. Before he left Fort Wayne, in January, 1903, he had erected a fine residence for the pastor and also a residence for the Sisters.

Upon leaving Fort Wayne, Father Nigsch returned to Putnam county, Ohio, and took charge of St. Peter and Paul's church at Ottawa, where he has since been stationed. His long residence in Glandorf had already made him thoroughly well acquainted throughout the county, and it was like returning to an old home to be transferred to Ottawa. His ministry here has been unusually pleasant and free from any embarrassing difficulties. No spectacular strides have been made, but nearly every year has seen some substantial improvement in one way or another. The church and the priest's residence have been rendered more comfortable and much improved in appearance. The large indebtedness, necessarily incurred for the many and expensive buildings and improvements of an earlier date, have been wiped out and funds accumulated for future necessities. A male choir was added in 1905, and a children's choir was later installed. The male choir was largely increased in 1913 by the training and instructing of a large number of young men in music. Father Nigsch loves truth much better than polite evasion. He is a man of strong executive and business ability, and withal a man with a warm heart, a kindly humor and an uprightness of character fully in keeping with his holy office. He is esteemed by not only those of his own church, but by the general public at large. As a good citizen, he takes an intelligent interest in the general life of his community and never shirks any responsibility when he feels that he can render service to his fellow citizens.

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### JOHN B. FISHER.

For the past score of years John B. Fisher has been engaged in the mercantile business at Townwood, Putnam county, Ohio. Before locating in Townwood, Mr. Fisher was engaged in business in various other places. By careful methods he has built up a flourishing trade at Townwood, and in addition to his business interests, he is also serving as postmaster, a position which he has held for several years.

John B. Fisher, the son of Andrew J. and Nancy M. (Baker) Fisher, was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, October 30, 1866. His father was born in the same county, June 30, 1839, the son of John and Eliza Fisher, natives of Ohio.

Andrew J. Fisher was reared on his father's farm in Tuscarawas county, and when a young man began to work on the railroad through his county, and continued in this work until 1869, when he moved to Allen

county, Indiana, where he purchased a farm, and continued to reside in Indiana until 1873, and then moved to Belmore, Putnam county, Ohio, where he took charge of a store. He managed this store until 1875, and then engaged in business for himself with Nimrod Speaker. This firm continued together for two years and then the business was sold to George Speaker. Following his connection with the mercantile business at Belmore, Andrew J. Fisher became yard boss for the stave factory at Belmore, which position he retained until the spring of 1893. He then went to Latty, Paulding county, Ohio, where he engaged in the butcher business until 1905, when he retired from active work and moved to Van Wert, Ohio, where he is now living.

Andrew J. Fisher was married, about 1861, to Nancy M. Baker, of Dennison, Ohio, and to this union four children were born: Laura, who died at the age of three; John D., of Townwood; Lydia, and Delia M. Lydia became the wife of William George, of Belmore, Ohio, and is the mother of seven children, John, Nancy, Bernice, Bernard, Delia, Noel and Dale. One of Lydia's sons, John, married Laura Fenstermaker; Delia M., the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fisher, became the wife of Howard J. Mouser, and has two children, one who died in infancy, and Fred, of Portland, Oregon.

John B. Fisher was three years of age when his parents moved to Allen county, Indiana, and lived in various places where his father was engaged in business. He received a good common school education and early in life began to work in his father's store. His early training in business was received in the store in Belmore and Leipsic. After his marriage he engaged in business for himself at Belmore, Perrysburg and Latty, before finally locating in Townwood in Putnam county. He came to the latter place in 1895 and bought the general store of J. F. Fike, and has been engaged in business in this place since that time. He carries a large line of such goods as are carried in stores in towns of this size and has built up a large and lucrative trade throughout this section of the county.

Mr. Fisher was married in June, 1889, to Effie M. Hunter, a daughter of John and Susanna (Sellers) Hunter. Her father was a native of Pennsylvania and her mother of Ohio. Mr. Fisher and his wife are the parents of five children, Fay, Marie, Carlton J., Paul and Winona. Fay married Prof. W. S. Wallen, of Petersburg, New York, and has one son, Richard. Carlton J. died in infancy, and the other three children are still living with their parents in Townwood.

## REESE F. HICKEY.

No profession has made greater advancement during the last half century than has that of agriculture, and practically all of the disadvantages which surrounded the pioneer farmer have been done away with because of the multitude of modern inventions which tend to lighten the farmer's labors. It takes less labor now to operate a farm of fifty acres than it did to operate a farm of ten acres fifty years ago, and inventions are coming into use every year which are helping the farmer to increase his sphere of usefulness. Ohio is recognized as one of the best farming states in the Union and no county in the state has better or more progressive farmers than has Putnam county. Among the hundreds of farmers who have made this county famous as an agricultural section, there is no one more worthy of a place in a biographical volume of this character than Reese F. Hickey, the subject of this review.

Reese F. Hickey was born on November 20, 1848, in Licking county, Ohio. He came to Putnam county when three years of age in 1850 with his parents, who settled on the old Kutsinger place one and one-half miles southeast of Gilboa, on Duke's Run, and here the family lived one year when the father purchased the old George Steward farm, one mile farther east. His wife died in 1865 and, in 1866, he married Sarah Harris. It was on this farm of one hundred and seventy-three acres that Reese F. Hickey's parents lived for about eighteen years, or until 1870, when Henry and Sarah (Harris) Hickey, moved to the Bacon farm one and one-quarter miles south of Gilboa, which place they had purchased some years before. It was upon this farm that Henry Hickey died one year later, April, 1871.

Reese F. Hickey spent his boyhood days on the old Steward farm. This farm was fairly well cleared and improved for that time, and had on it a good log cabin and a rather commodious log barn, as well as a large orchard. Here Reese F. Hickey assisted his father with the work of the farm, attending the district schools during the winter seasons, remaining on the farm until he was sixteen years of age.

Mr. Hickey enlisted for service in the Union army in August, 1864, in Company B, Twenty-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served under Generals Slocum, Ward and Gerry in Sherman's army. After his enlistment he joined his regiment which had just taken the city of Atlanta. This regiment was a part of the Twentieth Army Corps, and was a part of the First Brigade, Second Division. In the late fall of 1864, his regiment joined Sherman's march to the sea. It so happened that Mr. Hickey at this time,

had an attack of measles, which detained him for several weeks in the hospital, from which place he was sent to Nashville, where he performed some detail work. Later, with a squad of soldiers, he was given charge of several carloads of rebel prisoners, which they convoyed to Johnson's island on Lake Erie.

Subsequently, was placed in charge of a party of deserters from Ohio, who were taken from New York and returned to their command. After reaching New York, Mr. Hickey went by steamer to North Carolina. The steamer on which he sailed was wrecked off Cape Hatteras, and the passengers and crew escaped in life-boats to Boody's island. From here they sent information of their predicament, by some fishermen, to the military post at Roanoke island, and shortly a steamer arrived which conveyed them to Newburn, North Carolina. From here, Mr. Hickey went to Goldsboro, North Carolina, where he joined his own regiment, the Twenty-ninth Ohio. From Goldsboro, they went to Raleigh, North Carolina, and from there to Washington, D. C., marching overland all the distance. Mr. Hickey took part in the grand review before President Johnson and the leading generals of the army at Washington. He was mustered out of the service at Blatensburg, Maryland, on the outskirts of Washington, and was then returned to Camp Dennison, Ohio, near Cincinnati, where he received his final discharge.

After the close of the war, Mr. Hickey returned home and helped his father on the old home place, where he remained for about two years.

Reese F. Hickey was married on October 3, 1867, to Evaline McClure, the daughter of Andrew and Mary Ann (Ewing) McClure, who were early settlers and pioneers in Putnam county, Ohio. After his marriage, Mr. Hickey moved to a farm owned by his father, known as the George Wilkins farm, and located one and one-fourth miles southeast of Gilboa, and here he lived until 1870, or about three years, when he moved to the Doctor Mowe farm, one mile south of Gilboa, which also belonged to Mr. Hickey's father. This place he later purchased from his father. He sold the farm and moved to Gilboa in 1880 where he remained until 1884. He then bought back the same farm and returned to it, where he remained until 1907, when he again moved to Gilboa. He lived in Gilboa six years, and, in 1913, again returned to the old farm.

From time to time Mr. Hickey has added to his original land-holdings until he is now the owner of about four hundred acres, all of which lies south of Gilboa. Mr. Hickey has always engaged in general farming and stock-raising and has made a pre-eminent success of this combination.

Mr. and Mrs. Reese F. Hickey are the parents of seven children, Mary,

Thomas, Charles Henry, Roxy May, Daniel R., Mable and Reese F., Jr. Mary is the wife of Casper Harmon, and resides in Blanchard township, and is the mother of two children, Jennie and Edgar; Thomas married Annie Davis, of Glassford, Illinois. His death occurred on November 7, 1914; Thomas Hickey was a graduate of Crawfis College, of Gilboa. He also attended school at Normal, Illinois, and was admitted to the Missouri bar after taking a course in law, but he preferred the teaching profession, which he followed until his death at St. Charles, Illinois. At the time of his death, he was parole officer for the state reformatory at St. Charles. In this position he had been signally successful, had been much sought and honored by various city and county offices during his career, and at one time was mayor of Glasford, Illinois. He also served in Fulton county as supervisor and purchasing agent, and left a host of friends at the time of his death. Charles Henry, the third child of Mr. and Mrs. Hickey, married Mrs. Mary Swankhouse, formerly Miss Geisinger. They lived in Toledo, where he is connected with the Willis-Overland Motor Car Company. Roxy May is the wife of William Chester Windmon, and they reside south of Gilboa, and are the parents of six children, Clarence, who died at the age of twelve; Reese, Nancy Evaline, George, Reynolds and Harold. Daniel R. Hickey married Ina Heasley, of Montpelier, Indiana, who are now living in Texas, where he is in the oil business; Mabel is the wife of Austin White, and resides southwest of Gilboa. They have one child, Mary Magdalene; Reese F., Jr., the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Hickey, married Della Zine, of Ottawa, and has three children, Helen, Ina and Henry.

Andrew McClure, who is Mrs. Hickey's father, was a native of Maryland, and came with his parents, as a young man, to Licking county, Ohio. His wife, who was Mary Ann Ewing, was born in Licking county. After their marriage they came to Putnam county, about the year 1832, and settled one mile east of Gilboa. He died in 1861, while his widow survived him, until 1869. Mrs. Hickey has spent all of her life, since her girlhood, in Putnam county.

From the beginning of his career, Reese F. Hickey has been prominent in the councils of the Democratic party. He served as township trustee two terms, and as a member of the school board for twenty-one years. He was also township treasurer for two terms and land appraiser in 1890. He was appraiser of real estate for Gilboa in 1910. In addition to these offices, Mr. Hickey has held numerous other positions of trust and responsibility. There is no farmer in Putnam county who is better known than Reese F. Hickey, and no man who surpasses him in popular esteem. He has been very successful as a farmer and has gained a substantial competence for his declining



years. He lives in an imposing twelve-room residence and enjoys all of the comforts that are available in his community. For many years Mr. Hickey has been one of the leading members of Lindsay Post, Grand Army of the Republic, at Gilboa.

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### CHARLES J. RAY, M. D.

Few residents of any community exert an influence which is more beneficial to the community at large than does the local physician. His is the hand which guides his neighbors through sickness to health, and his the knowledge which is always called into play during times of greatest stress and danger. He is always at hand when most greatly needed, ready to answer a call from his neighbors at any time of the day or night. It is with such a man in the person of Charles J. Ray, M. D., of Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, that this sketch deals.

Charles J. Ray was born in Findlay, Ohio, a son of James K. and Sophia (Hoch) Ray. James K. Ray was born in Findlay, Ohio, in 1847, a son of Allen and Catherine (Routson) Ray, both of whom were natives of Columbiana county, Ohio. The father of Allen Ray was Gian Ray, who was a native of Ireland and who came to America when a young man, in company with his six brothers. He settled first near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, but later migrated to Columbiana county and settled near New Lisbon, where Allen Ray was born. It was at that place that Gian Ray was married.

Allen Ray was a farmer and, after his marriage in Columbiana county, he migrated to Hancock county, Ohio, where he bought a farm near Findlay. He died a few years later at the age of thirty, having been a victim of typhoid fever. Allen and Catherine Ray were the parents of five children, who were: Thomas, now living in Bartlesville, Oklahoma; Elise Ray, M. D., deceased, who lived at Findlay; Mary, the widow of William Shetterley, of Findlay; James K., the subject's father, and Albert, deceased, who was formerly city clerk of Findlay.

James K. Ray, the father of Charles J. Ray, received his early education in Findlay and then, in company with his youngest brother, Albert, engaged in the carriage manufacturing business when a young man. When he was about twenty-six years of age, he married Sophia Hoch, a daughter of Adam and Rosina (Heffler) Hoch, both of whom were natives of Badenheim, Darmstadt, Germany. Sophia Hoch, the mother of Charles J. Ray, was also born in Badenheim and came to America with her parents when she was two years of age. The family settled in Hancock county, where Adam Hoch

engaged in farming. In Germany, the Hefflers were landholders, and the Hochs conducted a tavern at Badenheim, the same tavern still being conducted by a Hoch, who is a cousin of Mrs. Hoch.

James K. and Sophia Ray were the parents of one son, Charles James, the subject of this sketch. James K. died at the age of thirty-one, in 1878. His widow is yet living and makes her home with her son.

Charles J. Ray spent his boyhood in Findlay, where he attended the common and high schools, having been graduated from the latter in 1892. He entered the Cleveland Medical College in the fall of 1892, from which he was graduated with the class of 1896. The following fall he located at Gilboa, Putnam county, Ohio, where he is successfully practicing his chosen profession at the present time.

After having practiced for several years, he took post-graduate work at the Chicago Polyclinic and later, in 1908, he took special work in advanced medicine, chiefly in diagnosis, at the Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts, during a period of fifteen months, after which he returned to Gilboa.

Doctor Ray is a member of Ottawa Lodge No. 325, Free and Accepted Masons, and of the American Medical Association. He is a progressive and successful physician of the regular school and is highly esteemed in his community, both as a physician and as a citizen, in which latter capacity he has been honored by his neighbors in having been given several offices of trust, all of which he has filled to the complete satisfaction of an appreciative public.

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#### GEORGE W. CORE.

In every community there are men who rise to the position of leaders in their respective vocations, farming, business or the trades. Men who have succeeded in their struggle for wealth and affluence are most likely to be the commanding figures in the communities where they live. People are generally willing to do honor to the successful man in whatever his success consists. George W. Core, cashier of the Peoples State Bank, of Columbus Grove, Ohio, has been successful in the business world.

George W. Core was born on June 19, 1864, at Cassville, West Virginia, the son of David and Rebecca (Layton) Core. David Core is also a native of Cassville, and was a son of Moses and Elizabeth Core. The Core family is said to have come originally from Scotland.



GEORGE W. CORE.



When George W. Core was two years old, the family moved to Columbus Grove, Putnam county, Ohio, where in 1866 they located on a farm. George W. Core lived on the farm near Columbus Grove, until nineteen years of age. He then took a course in telegraphy, and became a railroad operator. At the age of twenty he went west and spent a short time on a farm in Missouri, after which he went to Orion, Illinois, in the fall of 1884, took a position with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railway Company, and was also employed at various places on the northern division of the St. Louis branch of this railway. He was special agent for the St. Louis branch for about two years. In the spring of 1886 he gave up telegraphic work and took a place in the bank at Orion, Illinois, remaining with this financial institution four years as bookkeeper and teller.

In 1890, Mr. Core organized the Farmers Bank of Orion, a private bank, and became cashier upon its organization. He continued in this position until the fall of 1892, when he sold his interests in that bank and came to Columbus Grove, and organized the Peoples Bank. It was a private bank until 1896, when a state charter was taken out. It has since been operated as a state bank, with an authorized capital of sixty thousand dollars and present surplus and undivided profits of eighteen thousand dollars. Mr. Core has been cashier from the time the bank was first organized, and still holds that position. Besides his banking relations, Mr. Core has engaged in various other enterprises. He is largely interested in farming four hundred and fifty acres near Columbus Grove, three hundred and fifty of which adjoin the town of Columbus Grove. For a time he was interested in the electric light plant, both at Columbus Grove and at Paulding, and a principal promoter of the plant at the former place. He is also interested as a third owner of the Northern Ohio Cooperage and Lumber Company, with headquarters at Parkin, Arkansas. Likewise, Mr. Core was one of the promoters of the Putnam Telephone Company.

George W. Core was married to Lorena B. Dowden in 1893. She was born at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and was reared at Fairmount, West Virginia, the daughter of James E. and Ruth (Thomas) Dowden. Her father is a dentist and still resides at Fairmount. Mr. and Mrs. Core are the parents of two children, a son and daughter, Ruth K. and Eugene D. Ruth is now in her third year at Vassar College, while Eugene is in his last year in the high school at Columbus Grove.

Mr. Core is a thirty-second degree Mason, and also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is an adherent of the Republican party. He and his family are active members of the Presbyterian church.

Naturally, Mr. and Mrs. Core are leaders in the community where they live, having a large circle of friends and acquaintances and are popular throughout the county.

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### WILLIAM KLINE.

The farmer is the bulwark of the nation, and investigation has shown that a majority of our best business men in the city were reared on the farm. George Washington was a farmer and was proud of the fact. Abraham Lincoln was reared on a farm in Spencer county, Indiana. Probably the most democratic governor that Indiana ever had was "Blue Jeans" Williams, who prided himself on being nothing but a farmer. James A. Mount, another Indiana governor, was a farmer. Governor A. L. Harris, of Ohio, has always been interested in the farm. The farmer is not only the bulwark of the nation, but is the salt of the earth. Among the farmers of Putnam county, none is more progressive than William Kline, who has been thoroughly schooled in all the multitude of agricultural details which are necessary part of the information of every farmer. Careful and conservative in his business methods and affairs, he is, nevertheless, sufficiently schooled in the art of farming to make him keep pace with twentieth century ideas and methods of agriculture. Mr. Kline is a man well known in the community as a public-spirited citizen, and one, therefore, eminently entitled to representation in this volume.

William Kline was born in Seneca county, Ohio, May 14, 1847. He is a son of John Jacob and Elizabeth (Briner) Kline. John Jacob Kline was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, in 1802, and he was a son of Gottlieb Kline and wife.

John Jacob Kline came to America at the age of twenty-five years, after serving five years in the Prussian army. He landed first in New York City, where he remained for a few months, then came to Seneca county, Ohio, where he purchased sixty acres of land. He was a weaver by trade and, in the early days, he and his wife wove cloth for the people of their neighborhood. The cloth included linen, jean and flannel. They owned two looms and operated them in one room, a log cabin. John Jacob Kline was also a horticulturist of considerable ability. He was a man of splendid mental equipment, a great reader and self-made in every respect. His father, who came with him from Germany, took up a homestead in Hopewell township, Seneca county but only lived for about two years after coming

to America. John J. Kline's wife, who, before her marriage, was Elizabeth Briner, was born in Piqua county, Ohio, and is a daughter of John and Mary Briner. John Briner was a native of Pennsylvania, and served his country in the War of 1812. He came from Pennsylvania to Piqua county, Ohio; later removing to Seneca county, where he entered one hundred and sixty acres of land in Hopewell township. He lived on this farm the rest of his life. He was a carpenter by trade, which vocation he followed in addition to farming.

John Jacob Kline and wife were the parents of nine children, John, who married Jane Culverson; Mary Ann, who became the wife of Levi Mowry; Margaret, deceased, was the wife of Heskiah Edwards; Elias, who married Sophia Mundweiler; Christina, the wife of William Saul; Elizabeth, first married Hezekiah Edwards, and after his death, married a Mr. Tressler; Caroline, the wife of H. Edwards; Jacob Andrew, who married Margaret Litner, and William, the immediate subject of this sketch.

William Kline spent his boyhood days in Seneca county, and at the age of seventeen enlisted in Company C, Sixty-fifth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, on August 20, 1864, and served until the close of the war, being honorably discharged at Victoria, Texas, on October 20, 1865. He served under General Thomas in the Army of the Cumberland, and among other battles in Tennessee he participated in those of Spring Hill, Franklin, and Nashville.

After the close of the war, William Kline returned home and resumed farming until he was twenty-five years of age, when he was married to Margaret Brinkman, the daughter of Henry and Mary (Dewalt) Brinkman. Mrs. Kline died on June 19, 1890, leaving four children, Henry B., who married Mabel Cheney, who have two children, Russell and Guy Kenneth; Dr. Oliver Earl, who married Norah Cassell, who have one child, William Lawrence; Edith Cordelia, a physician, and Mary Elizabeth, a student in the State University, who are both unmarried and living in Columbus.

William Kline was married the second time on November 24, 1892, to Louisa Powell, the daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Rauch) Powell. Daniel was a native of Fairfield county, Ohio, who settled in Hancock county on a homestead, which had been entered by his father, where he lived the remainder of his life.

After his first marriage, Mr. Kline removed to Wood county, Ohio, where, for a number of years, he was an engineer in a stave factory. Subsequently, he engaged in teaming and again resumed farming. After farming for two years in Wood county he moved to Blanchard township, Putnam

county, and here purchased eighty acres of land, one and three-fourths miles northwest of Gilboa. This land was purchased on December 17, 1890, was known as the Seth Neal farm, and here Mr. Kline has since lived.

William Kline has held many political honors. He is an ardent Republican in politics, and has served as township trustee of Bloom township, Wood county. He has been a member of the school board of Blanchard township for five years and also a member of the college committee of Crawfis College. Mr. Kline's standing as a progressive citizen is shown by the fact that he has been largely instrumental in raising the standard of Crawfis College from a third grade to a first grade institution. Mr. Kline at one time was a candidate on the Republican ticket for state representative from Putnam county. The normal Democratic majority in Putnam county is twenty-five hundred, and Mr. Kline, because of his exceptional popularity, was able to cut this majority to less than one-half in the first campaign. In the last campaign he cut the Democratic majority down to eleven hundred, which is a splendid tribute to Mr. Kline's character and reputation as a citizen in Putnam county.

Mr. Kline has had two children by his second marriage, Hazel Rowella and William Ray, both of whom are unmarried and still at home. William Kline is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is a local minister in this denomination. His wife is also a member of this church. Few residents of Putnam county occupy a higher place in the public esteem of the community than William Kline, or who is more deserving the esteem of his neighbors and friends.

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#### WILLIAM PRATT FRANTZ.

That life is the most useful and desirable which results in the greatest good to the greatest number. Though all do not reach the heights to which they aspire, yet in some measure each can win success and make life a blessing to his fellow men. It is not necessary for one to occupy eminent public positions to do so, for in other walks of life there remains much good to be accomplished and many opportunities for the exercise of talent and influence that in some way will touch the lives of those with whom they come in contact, making them better and brighter. In the list of Putnam county's successful citizens, William Pratt Frantz has long occupied a prominent place. In his career, there is much that is commendable and his character force-



fully illustrates what a life of energy can accomplish when plans are wisely laid and actions are governed by right principles, noble aims and high ideals. In his public career as superintendent of the Putnam county infirmary, William Pratt Frantz has performed a noble service to the citizens of his community and one which has won for him the entire confidence and respect of the people of Putnam county.

William Pratt Frantz was born on August 20, 1874, in Blanchard township, Putnam county, the son of William Wilson and Elizabeth (Hoskinson) Frantz, who were married on April 16, 1863. William Wilson Frantz and wife were the parents of ten children, an account of whom may be found in the life-story of William Wilson Frantz, contained elsewhere in this volume. Elizabeth Hoskinson was the daughter of Alpha Robert and Elizabeth (Acord) Hoskinson, early settlers in Putnam county, Ohio. William Wilson Frantz was a native of Blanchard township and the son of Simon E. and Martha Jane (Patrick) Frantz. The former came from Pennsylvania in an early day and, in 1834, settled near Gilboa.

William Pratt Frantz attended the common schools until fifteen years of age and obtained a good education. One year after leaving school he struck out for himself. For several years he worked on various farms and was successful in saving a small amount of money.

Mr. Frantz was married on December 24, 1899, when he was twenty-five years old, to Stella A. Maidlow, the daughter of William and Marinda (Conine) Maidlow. William Maidlow is the son of John A. and Lucinda (Dowd) Maidlow. His wife was the daughter of John and Nancy (Minette) Conine. William Maidlow was born in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, April 29, 1845, and died on December 5, 1890. John A. Maidlow was a native of Maryland, who came to Knox county when about fourteen years of age. Here he remained until after he was married, when he came to Blanchard township. His wife, Lucinda Dowd, was also a native of Knox county, Ohio. William and Marinda (Conine) Maidlow were the parents of nine children, John T., who married Lilly Jane Frantz and has two children, William and Charlotte; Stella Alice, the wife of Mr. Frantz; Allen William, who died at the age of five years; Lilly Ann, who is unmarried; Lula, who died at the age of two and one-half years; Charles, who is unmarried; Jessie, who is the wife of R. P. Stewart, and has four children, Raymond, who died in infancy, Leora A., Robert and Lillian; Howard, who married Catherine Boegly and has one son, Ralph, and Ralph, who is single.

After his marriage, William P. Frantz moved to the J. E. Nemire farm, northeast of Ottawa, on which he remained for two and one-half years or,

until June 18, 1902, when he was appointed as superintendent of the Putnam county infirmary by B. H. Uphaus, J. E. Shank and J. W. Pfister, who were the board of directors at that time. Mr. Frantz was reappointed eleven consecutive terms or, until January 1, 1913, when, under the new law, he was appointed for two years by the county commissioners. His long service, as the head of this infirmary, speaks for itself. Mr. Frantz has behind him a sufficient record which explains why he has been retained in this position by the governing board for so many years.

To Mr. and Mrs. Frantz eight children have been born, Mary Elizabeth, William Ross, Glenn, Maricena, Mildred, Dwight, Marcell and Marthella. All are living at home with their parents except Maricena, who died at the age of two and one-half years, and Marcell, who died at the age of five months.

Few citizens of Putnam county are better known than William P. Frantz and few are more deserving of the esteem in which they are held by their fellow citizens. It is a regard which has been merited by his long and sympathetic service in behalf of men and women who are less fortunate than the normal citizen.

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### NORMAN CONINE.

It is always pleasant, as well as profitable, to review the career of a man who has won a definite goal in life, whose career has been such as to commend the honor and respect of his fellow citizens. In these days a man cannot lead a secluded life, but if he is to be a part of the community in which he lives, he must conserve his interests to those of the community at large. The most valuable citizens of any community are the men who are not only able to manage their own affairs successfully, but also to take an intelligent part in the affairs of the community. No man lives entirely to himself, and the man's value to the public is measured by his service to his fellowmen. Norman Conine is one of those men who has not only been successful in his own private business, but he has been called upon by his fellow citizens and has been a prominent factor in promoting the welfare of the district in which he lives.

Norman Conine, one of Putnam county's most substantial citizens, was born on October 22, 1833, in Licking county, Ohio, near Pataskala. He is the son of John S. and Nancy (Monnet) Conine, the former of whom was a native of New Jersey, as were also his patients, who were farmers that

came to Ohio in an early day. John S. Conine, whose mother lived to be more than one hundred years old, was a carpenter by trade, but did not follow it much after leaving Licking county. He and his wife were the parents of six children, Ann, Norman, Sylvanus, Wellington, deceased; Marinda and Charles W. Gifford.

Norman Conine came with his parents to Putnam county when about thirteen years of age. They settled on a farm where the Putnam county infirmary now stands. Mr. Conine lived with his parents until twenty-six years old, at which time Mr. Conine was married to Elizabeth Maidlow, March 22, 1859. She was the daughter of John and Lucinda (Dowd) Maidlow.

After his marriage, Mr. Conine lived with his wife's parents for a year, helping Mr. Maidlow on the farm where he afterward built a log cabin and barn and where he lived until 1869, when he moved just one-half mile north-east, purchasing his first forty acres of land, to which a few years later, he added forty acres more, bought from his father-in-law, upon which he moved a house he had purchased and which had been built by Jacob Numire. Since this time, Mr. Conine has added to his farm holdings until he now owns four hundred and eighty-five acres. He has always had unusual success in breeding good horses and his success is due partially to the fact that he has raised only the very best breeds. Mr. Conine has also made a success of hogs and cattle and formerly paid considerable attention to Shorthorn cattle especially.

To Mr. and Mrs. Norman Conine eleven children have been born, one died in infancy; John, who married Laura Overbeck, is the father of three children, Darling, Ruth and Lucy; Charles, now deceased; Ann, who is the wife of George Crawfis, and has had five children, Norman, Lucinda, Florence and two who are deceased; William, who married Rose Sears, and has ten children, Verne, Gladys, Mildred, Dewey, Dale, Marie, Maxine, Lucile, Norman and Iris; George, who married Vesta Burkell, and is the father of four children, one who died in infancy, Clarence, Ralph and Norman Ray; Samuel, who married Fannie Patrick, deceased, has had four children, all of whom are deceased; Lucinda, who is the wife of Clinton Clark, and has four children, Ethel, Earl, Annabele and Frederick; Mary, who is the wife of Wilber Patrick, and has one son, Oscar; Gertrude, who married Charles Payne, and has had four children, one deceased, Naomi, Elizabeth and Sylvia; Nettie, who married Ora Firistine.

Norman Conine has been a life-long Democrat. He is one of the really big men of Putnam county and has been township trustee for several terms and a member of the school board for practically thirty years. His long

service, in these two offices is, perhaps, the best testimonials that might be presented, not only to show his interest in educational affairs, but to show the efficiency with which he has discharged the duties of his office. Mr. Conine has always been regarded as one of the best-informed farmers living in Putnam county and this fact, to a large extent, accounts for the position of leadership which he has always occupied. Mr. Conine is universally respected for his sterling qualities and admired for his exceptional achievements.

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#### ASHFORD LAFAYETTE TATE.

Among the representative citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, is Ashford Lafayette Tate, a man who has been highly honored by the people of this county, and who is at present holding the responsible office of sheriff. For many years Mr. Tate has been one of the progressive and influential citizens of Putnam county. He is a native of this county, and has spent practically all of his life within its borders. The people have had an opportunity to know him and to judge of his merits and demerits, and the fact that he has been elected to a responsible office is sufficient evidence of his popularity and the esteem in which he is held by the citizens of Putnam county. Sheriff Tate is a man of keen perceptions, a good judge of human nature, a good business man, and has been successful in practically everything he has undertaken.

Ashford L. Tate was born on October 1, 1858, near Columbus Grove, in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is a son of Francis M. and Elizabeth A. (Critten) Tate. Francis M. Tate was born near Chillicothe, Ross county, Ohio, about 1827. He came to Putnam county, Ohio, in his boyhood with his parents, who located near Rockport, in Allen county. They later moved to the McCrate farm, in Pleasant township, this county, and here Francis M. Tate lived until his marriage. His wife, who before her marriage was Elizabeth A. Critten, was born in Licking county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Lake) Critten. They moved here in an early day while the country was still new and heavily timbered. After Mr. and Mrs. Francis M. Tate were married, he engaged in farming, which occupation he followed until late in life, when he moved to Columbus Grove, and here spent the remainder of his life. He died in November, 1906. His widow still lives in their old home at the west edge of Columbus Grove.



ASHFORD L. TATE.



Sheriff Ashford Lafayette Tate spent his boyhood days on the farm, and after finishing his education worked at various occupations. He is a Democrat, and, in 1914, was elected sheriff of Putnam county. He took office on January 4, 1915. Mr. Tate has always been active in Democratic circles, and for the last ten years has been a member of the Democratic county central committee. Sheriff Tate had unusual difficulties to meet in the beginning of his term as sheriff. He and his deputy were both new at the work, and there was a crowd of criminals more experienced in crime than usual confined in the Ottawa jail, and for the first time in many years an escape was attempted. Handling the prisoners, as his predecessors had done for years, he allowed them the freedom of the corridors outside the cages, and one of them, a desperate character, engineered the job of digging a hole through the back wall, but by accident knocked out a brick from the outside wall, and this led to the discovery of the trick. The sheriff and deputy acted promptly and locked all of the prisoners in their cages and none escaped.

Mr. Tate was married on January 1, 1880, to Amarillous Blakesley, who was born near Pandora, Putnam county, and is a daughter of James and Elizabeth (Fisk) Blakesley. Her father came from near Cleveland, Ohio, and was a farmer. Mr. and Mrs. Tate are the parents of four children, Zelma May, Myrtle, Flossie and Frank. Zelma attended the high school at Columbus Grove, and is now the wife of Leo Amstutz; they now live in the east edge of Union township, and they have three living children, Theron, Rosa and Alice. Myrtle is living with her father in Ottawa, where she is a student in a business college. She was also a student in the high school at Columbus Grove. Flossie is the wife of Roy Edwards; and lives in Columbus Grove. Mr. and Mrs. Edwards have two sons, Roscoe and Lorin Woodrow. Frank was a student of the high school at Columbus Grove. He makes his home with his parents, and is at present employed at Ottawa, Ohio.

Sheriff Tate belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows No. 454, at Columbus Grove. He is also a member of the Knights of Maccabees, at Columbus Grove. He and his entire family are earnest and devoted members of the Christian church at Columbus Grove, and are actively interested in the welfare of this denomination. The family are highly respected throughout Putnam county, where they are well known. Sheriff Tate is entirely worthy the confidence and trust which have been placed in him by the people of Putnam county, and he is the last man in the world to betray that trust or shirk any responsibility.

## ISAAC BRACY.

The life history of Isaac Bracy, one of the well-known and highly-esteemed citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, now living in honorable retirement, shows what industry, good habits and stanch citizenship will accomplish in the battle for success. His record has been one replete with duty, well and conscientiously performed in all of the relations of life. He has come down to us from the pioneer period and has noted the wonderful transformation from that time to this, playing his part in the drama of civilization. He has always been an advocate of wholesome living and cleanliness in politics as well, and has always stood for the highest and best interests of the community in which so many of his active years have been passed and which have been so honored by his citizenship.

Isaac Bracy was born on November 5, 1844, in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, the son of John and Mary (Bedway) Bracy. John Bracy was born about fifty miles from Paris, France, in 1812, and came to America with John Steiner, who settled in Allen county in 1831. In return for the expense incurred by Mr. Steiner for his trip, he worked for him for one year after his arrival in this country. At the expiration of this year, Mr. Steiner entered eighty acres of land in Blanchard township, Putnam county, for Mr. Bracy, about one and one-half miles south of the present town of Gilboa. For this he worked two additional years for Mr. Steiner and then started out for himself on this eighty acres, in 1834. About this time he was twenty-four years old. He went to Wayne county, Ohio, and there was married to Mary Bedway, the daughter of Joseph Bedway and wife, who were pioneers of Wayne county and who, like Mr. Bracy, were natives of France. After his marriage, John Bracy settled on the eighty acres which he had entered and he and his wife took their wedding journey behind a yoke of oxen to their new-found home in the wilderness. This trip occupied several days, being over one hundred miles. They built a cabin, fourteen by eighteen feet, in the woods and for several years, they had nothing but ground floor and a stick chimney, built on the outside of the wall, for a fireplace. They started to clear the land and as fast as they cleared a little piece, they planted a crop. It is related that in those days of their early struggles and hardships, John Bracy was compelled to go on horse-back to Tiffin, Ohio, fifty miles, to mill with a two-bushed sack of grain, the trip sometimes taking a week. At times when they ran out of meal, he would take corn on the cob and grate it on a home-



made grater, consisting of a piece of tin with nail holes punched through it. This product was used to make bread. Mrs. Bracy spun her own flax, but later the flax was taken to an old woman by the name of Butler, who had a loom, and there the flax was woven into linsey cloth, which material had to serve for clothing for all members of the family. After their first few years of privations and hardships, they succeeded, by dint of energy, in becoming quite comfortable and in that day were considered prosperous. From time to time, John Bracy added to his original land holdings until, when he died in 1872, he owned four hundred acres. His wife died in November, 1865. To this union were born five children, Mary Jane, deceased, who was the wife of G. W. Devore, of Carroll county, and who had nine children, four daughters and five sons; Jerusha, who is the wife of Aurora Geisinger, of Blanchard township, and has two daughters and one son; Isaac, the subject of this sketch; John, who married Esther Harris, and who has two daughters and one son, and Violet, who died in infancy.

John Bracy was married a second time, in December, 1867, to Mrs. Sarah (Pence) Jones, of Putnam county, but formerly of Allen county. To this union were born two children, one son and one daughter.

Isaac Bracy received his early education in the district schools of Blanchard township. He remained on the old homestead until he was eighteen years old, when he enlisted in the Twelfth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, on September 7, 1863. He saw active service in Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. He participated in the work of exterminating Morgan's raiders in Kentucky, which terminated at Mt. Sterling, June 11, 1864. After this he was engaged in scouting expeditions, raids and advance work after the western campaign. Among others, he served General Sherman. He was discharged at Lexington, Kentucky, July 3, 1865.

After the war, Isaac Bracy returned home and occupied himself with farming and bunching cattle. He was married to Mary A. Crawfis on January 17, 1867, the daughter of Lewis and Mary Ann (Henderson) Crawfis, pioneers of Putnam county, Ohio. She died on July 28, 1887. To this union were born eight children, Lewis J., who died in infancy; Charles, of Cabri, Saskatchewan, Canada, who married Pearl Conine and has two children, Reva and Kenneth; Wildy P., who married Nellie Miller and has three children, two boys and one girl; Carey, who married Arlowa Todd and has three children, Cloyd, Delia and Lena; May, who is unmarried and lives at home; Mate, who is the wife of D. U. McCullough and has four children, Leonard, Lawrence, Naomi and Dorothy; Isaac, who is

unmarried and at present is in California; Ada, who is the widow of James Cober, of Ottawa, Ohio, and has one child, Ruby.

After his marriage, Mr. Bracy rented the old home place from his father for two years, and after this he purchased eighty acres, three miles north of Gilboa, and moved there in the spring of 1869. He sold out three years later and moved to the northern part of Riley township. Mr. Bracy owns this farm of one hundred and twenty acres which was later cleared and improved by him. A little later, he bought the old homestead of his half-brother, though he continued to farm the place in Riley township until 1900, at which time he retired and moved to Gilboa, where he now resides.

Since his retirement, Mr. Bracy has spent his time, partly at his home in Gilboa and partly in traveling. Mr. Bracy has owned as much as three hundred acres of land and has made his money in raising, buying and selling stock, as well as in general farming. He has been a director in the bank at Gilboa and at one time owned a heavy interest in this bank.

Mr. Bracy is a Democrat, and throughout his life has been influential in the politics of his community. He has served as township treasurer for seven years and has also served twenty-three years as a member of the school board of Riley township. For six years he was trustee of Riley township. Mr. Bracy is a member of Ottawa Lodge No. 325, Free and Accepted Masons, and Gilboa Lodge No. 459, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

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### J. C. PHILLIPS.

All values are based upon land. It is the inevitable beginning of all wealth and its productiveness is the source of all income and, in the inherent capabilities of the land to provide the necessities of life, lies the prosperity of the nation. Land investment is attracting more people today than ever before. Real estate is the best security of all. It shows the largest profit when selected carefully. More men have acquired a competence through wise land investments than in any other manner. Land values have grown rapidly within the last decade in this section of this great country. He who has possessed the foresight and acumen to secure land and to operate it wisely, to develop and improve it, has seen the wealth of his holdings grow until his farm not only pays him better dividends each year, but is worth far more in itself than when he took possession of it. J. C. Phillips is a striking example

of what determined energy and grit, combined with good business acumen, can accomplish.

J. C. Phillips was born in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, November 26, 1858, a son of Eli and Mary (Fenstmocher) Phillips. Eli Phillips was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, October 27, 1823, and died in 1895. He was a son of Samuel Phillips, who was a native of Wales and came to America when a boy.

Eli Phillips spent his boyhood in Coshocton, where he received his early education. When he was a young man he migrated to Wood county, Ohio. He was married about 1854 at Bowling Green, Wood county, to Mary Fenstermocher, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Fenstermocher. After his marriage he settled in Hancock county, near Findlay, where he remained about two years. He then located on the John Crawfis farm, near where Crawfis College now is, and retained that farm for about ten years. From there he went to Lowell, Michigan, where he remained four years and moved to Ionia, near which location he remained until the time of his death in 1905.

Phillip Fenstermocher was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and came to Wood county, Ohio, during the early days. When Eli Phillips was a young man, he and his brother entered eighty acres of land each on the present site of Jersey City, Wood county. Twelve children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Eli Phillips, as follow: Joseph D., born on January 20, 1856; Rachel, born on June 20, 1857, died on December 23, 1863; John, the subject of this sketch; George K., born on August 12, 1860; Sarah, born on April 5, 1863, he died in 1912; Levi, born on March 19, 1865; Herman and Joshua, twins, born on September 23, 1867; Ensign, born on September 20, 1870; Eliza, born on May 25, 1874; Jason, born on July 12, 1877, and Chetro, born on January 18, 1880.

At the age of nine, J. C. Phillips moved with his parents to Michigan and remained there until he was nineteen years of age. He then returned to Putnam county, Ohio, where he worked on a farm for two years. When he was twenty-one years of age, October 11, 1879, he married Sarah E. Harris, a daughter of Stacy and Elizabeth (Knisley) Harris.

Stacy Harris was of Irish descent and was born in Licking county, Ohio. His wife was of Pennsylvania-Dutch ancestry and was born in Muskingum county, Ohio.

After his marriage, Mr. Phillips remained with his wife's people for one year. He then moved to Ionia, Michigan, where he remained nine months, and then returned to Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, where he has made his home since that time. For a time he farmed some distance

southeast of Gilboa, Ohio, and, about 1893, he bought a part of the Hickey farm, a mile and a half southeast of Gilboa. His first purchase comprised forty acres, a farm which he has developed and enlarged until at the present time he owns one hundred and eighty acres. In all his farming operations he has met with marked success.

Mr. Phillips is a life-long Democrat and has always taken an active part in the political affairs of his community. For twenty years he has been a member of the school board and a supervisor, having conducted the affairs of his offices with marked ability and success.

Mr. Phillips is a member of Ottawa Lodge No. 325, Free and Accepted Masons; Gilboa Lodge No. 459, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and Encampment No. 238, Independent Order Odd Fellows, of Bluffton.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Phillips have one son, Leonard, who married Pearl L. Harris, a daughter of Isaac and Rachel (Baker) Harris. Isaac Harris was born in Licking county, Ohio, and came to Putnam county at the age of five years. His wife was born in Putnam county, of German descent.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Phillips have three children, Grace Leonore, John Carl and Harvey Kerr.

Mr. Phillips is a man of considerable prominence among his neighbors, having always been found on the right side of any question of local importance, and always standing in favor of anything which he considered of benefit to the community. He is a man of energy, ability and unquestioned integrity.

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#### ULRICH S. STEINER.

Men who take an active interest in public questions, especially in religious affairs, adding their wisdom to the wisdom of the community and assisting by their counsel, are ever honored by the people for the good they do. Ulrich S. Steiner, a prominent farmer and evangelist of Putnam county, Ohio, is likewise one of its most representative citizens and a man who has given much of his time to public service. He has been especially successful in religious work and is an organizer of religious affairs. Few men in Putnam county are better or more favorably known than Ulrich S. Steiner and few men more fairly deserve the respect and admiration of their fellowmen.

Ulrich S. Steiner was born on September 19, 1856, near Bluffton, Richland township, Allen county, Ohio, the son of John and Anna (Burkholder)

Steiner. John Steiner was born in the canton of Berne, Switzerland, January 23, 1792, and died on March 6, 1865, two miles west of Bluffton, in Richland township, Allen county. John Steiner was the son of Christian Steiner, who was the father of three children and who came to America in 1813, at the age of twenty-one, after a voyage lasting fifty days. He settled in Wayne county, near Orrville, where he remained for several years, and then moved to Richland township. Here he entered land from the government, and here he built a two-roomed log cabin with a center hall, to which cabin he later added one room, a frame structure, which served for his residence for several years, or until his son, John Steiner, built a story and a half brick house and frame structure. It was in this house that Ulrich S. Steiner was born. John Steiner's first farm comprised one hundred and twenty acres, but to this he later added three hundred and twenty acres. In the beginning, this farm was in a virgin state and heavily timbered, with a dense growth of large white oak trees. John Steiner cleared about three-fourths of this farm, or about ninety acres, during his life time. In addition to other improvements he made on the old homestead, he built an immense barn, ninety by forty feet, with an addition of twenty by forty feet. This barn was constructed in 1857 and is in a most excellent state of preservation today. It is interesting to note that to duplicate this structure by contract today would probably cost three thousand dollars. In those days when they obtained all of the timber on the grounds, it cost only seven hundred and ninety-two dollars.

John Steiner was first married to Mary Stauffer, of Wayne county, and by her he had eight children, one of whom, Ulrich, died in infancy. The seven who survived were: Christian, John, David, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Samuel. By his second marriage, John Steiner was the father of six children, Elizabeth, Anna, Barbara, Ulrich S., Magdalene, deceased, and Daniel.

A very peculiar incident is related in connection with the life of the eldest son. Soon after his birth the child was bitten by a snake, while in bed with its parents, from the effects of which bite he died.

It was on this old homstead that Ulrich S. Steiner was born and spent his childhood days. At the age of eight years he had the misfortune to lose both parents, who died three days apart. After their death, Ulrich S. was taken to be reared by John S. Thur, who lived near Bluffton. Here he remained until twenty-five years of age, at which time he was married. He had been teaching school for eight years prior to this time and had gained a splendid reputation as a teacher.

Mr. Steiner was married on October 13, 1881, to Susan Schumacher, who was born on December 21, 1861, in Richland township, Allen county. She is the daughter of Reverend Peter and Elizabeth (Suter) Schumacher. A complete history of this family is to be found in the sketch of Christian Schumacher, his brother.

After his marriage, Mr. Steiner farmed and taught school for two years, later devoting all of his efforts to farming. He located on a farm three and one-half miles northeast of Pandora, comprising eighty acres, which has been his residence since that time, with the exception of three years spent in Pandora in the study of the Word of God, which he still has in view. Mr. Steiner has been quite successful as a farmer and attributes this success mainly to the raising and selling of hogs.

To Mr and Mrs. Ulrich Steiner seven children have been born, Estella, the wife of A. J. Abigglen, who lives north of Pandora; John Franklin, who married Madeline Hubscher and both are missionaries in south China, on the island of Hainan; Jesse Edwin, who married Priscilla Diller, and has two children, Esther Orvilla and Mabel Lavon; James Calvin, who is a student in Otterbein University; Martha Elizabeth, Oliver Ezra and Paul David, all of whom are at home.

Mr. Steiner is a Democrat but, though he is identified with this party, he is an independent voter and supports measures and men rather than party emblems. He is now engaged to a considerable extent in evangelistic work. Mr. Steiner is a member of the Missionary church of Pandora, of which his wife likewise is a member. He is one of the organizers of the local church and took charge of their first meeting. He is a man of clean, Christian character and of high ideals.

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#### CHARLES R. BLAUVELT.

Among the men of sterling worth and strength of character who have made an impression upon the life of the locality in which they live, none has achieved a larger measure of popular respect and esteem than Charles R. Blauvelt, the cashier of the Farmers State and Savings Bank, of Continental, Ohio. Mr. Blauvelt is well known throughout this section of Putnam county; in fact, he was born in Putnam county and has spent his whole life, or practically all of it, in this section. His life-long residence in one locality gives the people an opportunity to know every phase of his character, and that he



CHARLES R. BLAUVELT.





has been true to life in its every phase is manifest from the confidence and regard in which he is held by those who know him. In a business way, he is a man of unusual attainments and has achieved a splendid success in business, and especially in banking. Mr. Blauvelt combines many of the traits so necessary to success in this day and generation.

Charles R. Blauvelt was born on May 25, 1878, at Belmore, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Isaac E. and Hannah (Speaker) Blauvelt. Isaac E. Blauvelt was born in Franklin county, Ohio, in 1842, and was the son of Abraham, Jr., and Louisa (Baldwin) Blauvelt. The family originally came from Holland. Abraham Blauvelt, Sr., came to New York during the American Revolution and founded the town of Blauveltville. He was the father of Abraham, Jr., who was the father of Isaac E. Isaac E. Blauvelt grew up in Franklin county, Ohio, and there married Hannah Speaker, a sister of Nimrod Speaker, whose sketch gives the family history. Mr. and Mrs. Isaac E. Blauvelt moved to Putnam county in 1857 and located on a farm one mile south of Belmore. There he farmed until recent years, when he moved to Belmore, where he now resides. He has been a lifelong farmer and has served as township trustee, on the board of education and has filled other local offices of trust and responsibility.

Charles R. Blauvelt grew up at Belmore and attended Muskingum College, after having completed a course in the public schools of Ohio. He left college in 1902 and then taught school at Belmore for five years. At the end of this period he organized the bank at Belmore. It is a state bank and Mr. Blauvelt served as cashier of this bank for seven years.

Mr. Blauvelt moved to Continental in January, 1914, having sold out his interest in the bank at Belmore and having purchased an interest in the Farmers State and Savings Bank at Continental, of which he is now cashier. Mr. Blauvelt was mayor of Belmore for seven years and also served on the school board for three years.

In 1901, Charles R. Blauvelt was married to Loretta C. Jones, who was born at Greentown, Indiana, and who is the daughter of J. W. and Elizabeth A. (Covalt) Jones, who still live at Greentown. Mrs. Blauvelt grew up at Greentown, where she graduated from the high school and from the normal academy. Her father was a miller, who moved to Belmore, where he engaged in the milling business for some time, but subsequently removed to Greentown, where he now resides. Mr. and Mrs. Blauvelt have five children, Ralph E., Charles Frederick, Vaughn C., Elizabeth A. and Etta Cathryn.

Mr. Blauvelt is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. and Mrs. Blauvelt are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are bringing up their family in this faith.

Although Charles R. Blauvelt is a comparatively young man, he has demonstrated, within a very few years, that he is possessed of that initiative and determination which is a certain guarantee of success in life. Mr. Blauvelt has not only been able to achieve a rather exceptional measure of success, but at the same time he has managed to retain the confidence and respect of his fellows, as is evident by the responsible positions of trust with which he has been charged. Few men in this section of Putnam county are better known than he, and few men are more deserving the respect of his fellows. Mr. and Mrs. Blauvelt are popular, socially, in Continental and admired by a large number of people.

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### JONATHAN J. DARLING.

Jonathan J. Darling has attained pronounced prestige by reason of natural and acquired ability, and also because of his permanent and official position and high standing in the domain of private citizenship. He takes a deep and abiding interest in everything that pertains to the material advancement of the town and township where he lives, and every enterprise intended to promote the advancement of Putnam county is sure to receive his hearty support. Jonathan J. Darling is rated as one of the progressive citizens of the community in which he lives, and the high respect in which he is held by all classes of people is a deserving compliment to an intelligent, broad-minded and most worthy man. He is a successful farmer and has made farming pay him handsome returns.

Jonathan J. Darling was born in Riley township, Putnam county, on the old Darling homstead, on June 10, 1850, the son of Joseph and Sophia (Groff) Darling. His father was a native of Richland county, Ohio, and was born on July 9, 1818. He was the son of Jonathan P. and Catherine (Butler) Darling, natives of Virginia. Jonathan P. Darling was a soldier in the War of 1812 and soon after the close of that struggle, located in Richland county, Ohio. He lived here as a farmer until his death at the age of seventy-one. Jonathan P. Darling was a devout Lutheran. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, Robert, Joseph, Rebecca, Squire, Abigail, Vincent, Sophia, Aditha and John P. Vincent, who died after his marriage, leaving a wife and seven children. Aditha married Matthew Alexander and became the mother of a family. Joseph Darling, the father of Jonathan J., settled in Hancock county in 1843, and a little later in Riley

township, Putnam county. He married Sophia Groff in 1840. She was the daughter of Joseph Groff, a native of Pennsylvania, of German descent. He was the father of eleven children, Elias, Polatus, Eli, Julia A., Sophia, David, Emeline, Christina, Fiatta, Caroline and James. Seven children were born to Joseph Darling and wife, Elias, who died of smallpox in Libby prison; Abigail, who married Volney O. Vanstronder, who died on January 25, 1885, leaving three children; Catherine E., who died young; Sophia A., who died in childhood; Jonathan, the subject of this sketch; Joseph and Sarah, both of whom died young. Mrs. Joseph Darling died on March 28, 1880. She was a member of the Methodist Protestant church. Joseph Darling was a man of considerable local influence. He served his township as township appraiser and as township trustee, was a pillar in his church and an experienced and successful farmer and a man respected for his unswerving morality.

Jonathan J. Darling spent his childhood and youth on the old home place. He attended the district school, and, after completing the course here, took one term at the Ottawa Normal. Two terms he spent at Ohio-Northern University, at Ada, where he continued his academic studies. After finishing his education, he returned home and taught one term in the home-district. He was a successful teacher, but soon took up farming for himself on his father's farm.

At the age of twenty-eight, on February 28, 1878, Jonathan J. Darling was married to May Youngkin, who was born at Gilboa, December 9, 1856, and who is the daughter of Jerome W. and Mary Ann (Hall) Youngkin. Mrs. Youngkin was the daughter of Samuel and Martha (Wamsley) Hall. Samuel Hall was born on April 9, 1803, and died on March 25, 1896. His wife was born on September 30, 1805, and died in September, 1895. Both Jerome W. and Mary Ann (Hall) Youngkin were natives of Putnam county. The Halls were pioneers in Putnam county.

After his marriage, Mr. Darling continued farming for about fifteen years, or until 1893, when he moved to Gilboa and entered the hardware business, in which he continued for nine years. He then returned to the farm, which has been his residence since that date. Mr. Darling has always engaged in general farming and has been quite successful. At his father's death he inherited eighty acres of the old homestead and has since added forty acres, making in all one hundred and twenty acres which he now owns.

To Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan J. Darling, five children have been born, Clinnie, Ettie, Jessie, Leo and Lena. Clinnie, who was born on February 27, 1879, is the widow of William Ross. One child, Vera, who resides at home,

was born to them; Ettie, who was born on December 20, 1881, is the wife of Edward L. Peckinpaugh, and has three children, Edward, Vilroe and Gerald. They reside one mile south of Leipsic; Jessie, who was born on January 31, 1884, is the wife of Harry C. Laub, and has two children, Harold and Raymond. They reside near Milan, Michigan; Leo, who was born on July 30, 1890, died on February 12, 1893; Lena, who was born on October 4, 1893, is a student at Defiance College.

Jonathan J. Darling is one of Riley township's most successful farmers and is well and favorably known. He is a Democrat and served his fellow citizens as treasurer of Blanchard township for four years and made a creditable record. Mr. Darling attends the Methodist Episcopal church at Gilboa. Mrs. Darling and her daughters are members of this church.

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### HENRY SHERMAN KETNER.

An enumeration of those men of the present generation who have won honor and recognition for themselves and at the same time have honored the locality to which they belong, would be incomplete were there were failure to make specific mention of Henry Sherman Ketner. The qualities which have made him one of the prominent farmers of Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, have also won for him the esteem of his fellow citizens: His career is one of well-directed energy, strong determination and honorable methods.

Mr. Ketner was born on March 4, 1865, in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is a son of Andrew and Mary (Hall) Ketner, the former born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1811, and died in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio. Andrew Ketner was married in Fairfield county, Ohio, to a Mrs. Pope, and came to Putnam county in an early day, probably soon after his marriage, settling in Blanchard township, in the southwest part of what is known as the Stover farm. Here he entered forty acres of land from the government. He later rented a farm in the southeast part of Ottawa township, owned by a man by the name of Lutz. Later on, he purchased eighty acres in the northeast part of Pleasant township, and here he lived the remainder of his life. Before moving to Pleasant township, his first wife died, leaving four children, Silas, Sarah, Matilda and Sissy. After his wife's death, Andrew Ketner returned to Fairfield county, where he married Mary Hall, the mother of H. S. Ketner. Again he returned to

Putnam county, locating on his eighty-acre farm in pleasant township. The farm was covered with virgin timber at the time Mr. Ketner acquired it, and some of it was covered with water a part of the time, but in spite of these obstacles, Andrew Ketner set to work with a will, built a one-room cabin and a log stable, and with true pioneer spirit, proceeded to improve and develop his farm. He later added a kitchen and bedroom to his cabin, and this house served as his residence for the remainder of his life. He succeeded in clearing about sixty-three or sixty-five acres of the land, and it was here that Henry S. Ketner and his brothers and sisters were born, there being six of them, as follow: James, deceased, who married Alice Fuller, also deceased, had two children, Martha, deceased, and May; Priscilla, the wife of Denton Snyder; Elias, who married Etta Hill, has five children, Victor, Zadell, Lena, Walter and Edith, who died at the age of five years; Henry S., with whom this narrative deals; Sylvester, who married Alice Guisinger; Charles, unmarried.

It was on the old homestead, in Pleasant township, that Henry Ketner was reared, and it was here that he attended the old Butler district school. At the age of fourteen, he left school to help his father clear the land and operate the home farm, where he stayed with his father and mother until he had reached his majority, and the following fall was married. Henry Sherman Ketner was married on August 11, 1887, to Nora Bracy, who was born in Blanchard township, October 8, 1869, and who is a daughter of John and Sarah (Pence) Jones-Bracy. The latter was born on August 5, 1827, and died in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, May 28, 1896. She first married G. W. Jones, and to this union were born eight children, and after his death she was married to John Bracy, and to this union were born two children, Andrew Duff, who married Annie Harris, has four children, Minda, Howard, August and Harrietta; Nora, the wife of Mr. Ketner. The details of the Bracy family history are to be found in the sketch of Isaac Bracy, found elsewhere in this volume.

After his marriage, Mr. Ketner and wife located on the farm Mrs. Ketner received from her father's estate three and one-half miles northeast of Pandora, on which they have lived since that time. Mr. Ketner has always engaged in general farming and stock raising with a very commendable degree of success. He is a man of genial disposition and popular in the community where he lives.

Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Ketner, Abigail Armeda, born on November 2, 1889, is the wife of Daniel Miller, and they have four children, Verax Gertrude, Glen Harold, Leona Lucile and Wayne Millard;

Sarah Gertrude, born on April 17, 1892, is the wife of Joseph Welty, and resides in Toledo, Ohio; Alvin Lee, born on January 14, 1895, is unmarried and living at home; Alta May, born on July 28, 1897, is unmarried and living at home; Kenneth Martin, born on February 24, 1906; Marguerite B., born on December 28, 1908, died on December 31, 1908.

Mr. Ketner is a Republican, and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Gilboa, and is an attendant of the Methodist Episcopal church, as is also Mrs. Ketner. H. S. Ketner is one of the influential citizens of Riley township. He is well and favorably known as a progressive farmer and a man who is entitled to the esteem in which he is held by his neighbors and fellow citizens.

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### BENJAMIN B. HILTY.

The biographies of enterprising men, especially of good men, are instructive as guides and incentives to others. The example they furnish of patient purpose and steadfast integrity, strongly illustrate what it is in the power of each to accomplish. Some men belong to no exclusive class in life. Apparently insurmountable obstacles have awakened their dormant faculties and served as a stimulant to carry them to ultimate renown. The instances of success in the face of adverse fate would seem to almost justify the conclusion that self-reliance, with half a chance, can accomplish any reasonable object. Benjamin B. Hilty is a man who has lived to good purpose and achieved a splendid success. By a straightforward, commendable course, he has made his way to a respectable position in the world, winning the hearty admiration of the people of his community and earning the reputation of being an enterprising, progressive man of affairs, which the public has not been slow to recognize and appreciate.

Benjamin B. Hilty was born in Richland township, Highland county, Ohio, March 8, 1850, on the old Hilty homestead. He is a son of Peter and Elizabeth (Neuenschwander) Hilty. The family history of Mr. Hilty's parents is to be found in the sketch of Isaac Hilty, a brother of Benjamin B., found elsewhere in this volume.

Benjamin B. Hilty spent his childhood and youth on the old homestead in Richland township, Highland county, Ohio. Here he attended the typical log-cabin schools, and here he remained until twenty-three years of age. The farm of one hundred and twenty acres was only about two-thirds cleared

when his father first acquired it, and Benjamin B. helped to clear and develop this farm with the exception of twenty acres.

At the age of twenty-three years, Mr. Hilty was married to Susannah Steiner, who was born on May 12, 1855, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, a daughter of Peter and Barbara (Schumacher) Steiner. Susannah Steiner is a sister of Peter P. Steiner, whose life history is found elsewhere in his volume. Her mother was a sister of Peter Schumacher, the history of which family is to be found in the sketch of Christian Schumacher.

To Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin B. Hilty eleven children have been born, Samuel B., born on April 12, 1874, is unmarried and resides at Pandora; Helena B., born on June 10, 1875, died on July 3, 1905, at the age of twenty-one; Albert B. and Clara, twins, born on November 30, 1876, Clara dying at the age of six months, while Albert married Elizabeth Welty, and they have four children; Edward, born on July 15, 1878, married Martha Sommers, and they have four children; Mary, born on December 10, 1879, is the wife of John A. Sommers, and they have one child, and live at Pandora; Sarah, born on May 20, 1881, is the wife of Albert A. Bury, and they have four children, and reside at Pandora; Cyrus and Willis, twins, were born on June 24, 1883, the former died at the age of two months, while Willis died at the age of twenty-one years; Lewis B., who died at the age of a few months, and Ellen, born on May 22, 1887, is the wife of Philip Amstutz. The mother of these children died on October 3, 1888. She was a member of the Mennonite church, a kind and faithful wife and a devoted mother.

After his marriage, Benjamin B. Hilty worked on his farm of seventy-five acres, on the old Ridge road, one and one-half miles east of Pandora. This farm had a two-room log house and a small frame barn on it at this time, and only about twenty acres of the land had been cleared. The land was covered with water for a considerable portion of the year. Mr. Hilty proceeded to clear up his land, and it was only by dint of untiring industry and perseverance that he succeeded. It was in this old log cabin that all his children were born, and it was here that Mrs. Hilty died. After her death, Mr. Hilty broke up housekeeping for a few years. The children were placed with neighboring relatives. Later, when they were grown older, Mr. Hilty gathered them together in a new frame building adjoining the old log house which he had built, and here he and his children again took up their residence. One month after coming together again, this house was destroyed by fire. Soon afterward Mr. Hilty built a larger frame house, containing eight or nine rooms. In addition to this improvement he built a large and

commodious barn and other outbuildings, in keeping with the surroundings. In addition to this he purchased a farm of seventy acres two miles north of Pandora, which he gave to his son. Along with his farming activities, Mr. Hilty has been operating a threshing outfit for the past seventeen years. About a year after his wife died, he engaged in buying and selling live stock a part of the time. He was associated in business with Samuel B. Krohn. At the end of two or three years he engaged in the manufacture of tile, which business he continued for four years.

Before engaging in the live stock business with Samuel B. Krohn, Mr. Hilty made a trip to Switzerland, where he visited the scenes of his father's birthplace. It was after disposing of his tile business that he returned to his old business of threshing, in which line he is still engaged. Besides farming and his work along other lines, Mr. Hilty has been an extensive breeder of thoroughbred Belgian horses and has made a notable success in this business. Out of all his enterprises, Mr. Hilty has made considerable money and has a substantial competence for his declining years.

Mr. Hilty is a member of the Mennonite church, of which denomination Mrs. Hilty was also a member. He is a Democrat. He has served his township as supervisor and also as school director. He has always led an active life and is well and favorably known. He enjoys the respect of the community in general and, as a citizen of the township, his character and reputation are above reproach.

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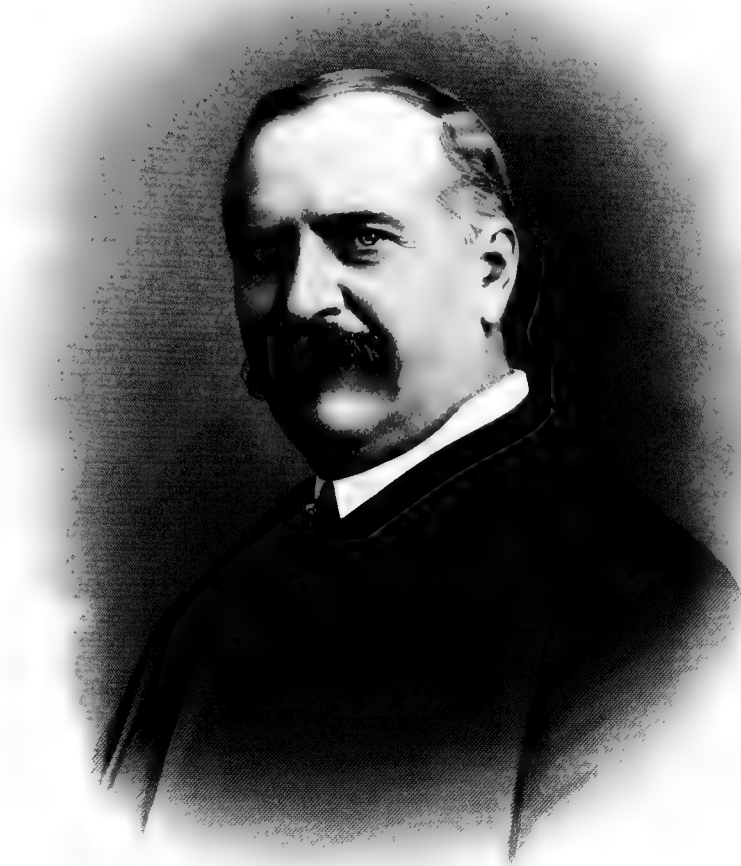
#### WILLIAM W. EDWARDS.

On what more fitting page can those beautiful words "In Memoriam" be arrayed than on a page of the history of the county in which the person in whose tribute the words are used lived so long and so usefully; the county in which his manifold activities came to such ripe fruition, the county in which he was so well loved and throughout which he is so sincerely mourned? In arraying "In Memoriam" here to the memory of William W. Edwards, long one of the most active and prominent citizens of Putnam county, the biographer is conscious of a sense of peculiar fitness, the sense of doing the right thing in the right place. History is but biography in the mass, for it is the individual that creates the event, and the history of one's time is but the history, in the aggregate, of the individuals who contribute to the events of the period. Many who have lived and labored in the past in Putnam county left the impress of their individuality writ large upon the page of









1880

*W. E. Howard*



their generation's achievements and their names are recalled with veneration and honored as they ought to be by those who, coming after them, have profited by the labors of their lives. These men did well the things which their hands found to do, and, having done their part, passed on, but their memories are as imperishable as the monuments their industry and energy and painstaking care erected, and their names long will live in the annals of the community whose institutions they so earnestly wrought to perpetuate and in which they achieved so large a measure of success. Among this noble band it may be properly said that none was better known or more popularly regarded than he whose name the reader's eye has noted above, and it is a pleasure for the reviewer to set out a few of the salient points in his life, such points as relate to his public activities and which will be valuable as information to the present and coming generations.

In the biography presented elsewhere in this volume, under the name of Joseph H. Edwards, the well-known banker of Kalida, the genealogy of the Edwards family is set out at some length, and repetition here may not be regarded by the reader as necessary. It will be sufficient to say, therefore, that William W. Edwards was born in Licking county, Ohio, December 19, 1847, the son of Thomas W. and Isabel (Huston) Edwards, the former of whom was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, in 1823, the son of Walter Edwards, a native of Wales, who came to America with his parents when he was twelve years of age and located in Muskingum county, Ohio, where he grew to useful manhood and where he reared his family, among his children being Thomas W., who married Isabel Huston, a member of one of the pioneer families of Licking county, Ohio, and who brought his family to Putnam county in the year 1864, he and his wife spending the rest of their lives in Union township, her death occurring in 1892 and his in 1905, he dying in the town of Leipsic, to which he had retired upon giving over the active life of the farm, some years before his death. The memory of Thomas W. Edwards and his good wife is still held precious in the community in which they so long lived, as they were, indeed, active in good works all their lives. That they possessed extraordinary strength of character is demonstrated by the force of character which they imparted to their children, their three sons, William W., John and Joseph H., who so long and so successfully were associated together in business in this county and its environs, having ungrudgingly attributed much of their success in life to the training they received under the careful charge of their parents. Of these sons, only Joseph H. now survives, the death of John having occurred in 1901. Two

daughters of Thomas Edwards also survive, Mrs. S. J. Hoffman and Mrs. C. S. Perry. Two other sons, James and David, died in infancy.

William W. Edwards was fifteen years of age when he came to Putnam county with his parents, and he spent the rest of his life in this county, growing to be one of the most useful and influential, as well as one of the wealthiest, men in the county. He died May 21, 1913, and was widely mourned, for he was a man who had inspired many warm and enduring friendships.

Though the schools in this county, in the days of his youth, were not what they are now, Mr. Edwards was an apt student and readily absorbed such learning as was afforded in the course at that time prescribed in the country schools, to which was supplemented the instructions received at home from his attentive parents. At the age of seventeen he began teaching school and continued this form of public service for several winters, his summers being occupied in assisting his father on the farm. Evincing, early in life, the peculiar aptitude for business which characterized his later and larger dealings, Mr. Edwards, as a young man, engaged somewhat extensively in the live stock business, in which he made a gratifying measure of success. At the age of twenty-three he formed a partnership with his brother John and I. N. Bushong, in the manufacture of staves, his brother, Joseph H. Edwards, later coming into the firm, at which time, in 1893, it was incorporated under the name of the Buckeye Stave Company, which not only owned mills at several points in this county, but at several points in the neighboring counties in Ohio and at various points in Michigan. The company also engaged in the banking business at Kalida and Continental, and eventually became interested in several other banks in Ohio and enterprises of one variety and another, all of which have proved highly successful. A more detailed account of the enterprises in which the Buckeye Stave Company is interested will be found in the historical section of this volume and in the biographical sketch relating to Joseph H. Edwards.

The Edwardses were largely interested in the Buckeye National Bank at Findlay, Ohio, and William W. Edwards was president of this institution at the time of his death. He also was very active in the affairs of the National Bank of Commerce at Toledo, Ohio, in which he was a heavy stockholder, his financial ability and high character giving him a position of virtual leadership in the affairs of that institution, he being the first vice-president of the bank. Upon his death, the board of directors passed a series of resolutions, which were beautifully hand-illuminated, bound and conveyed to the family of the deceased. In part, these resolutions said:

"Perhaps the most prominent trait of Mr. Edwards' character was the plain, old-fashioned virtue of honesty. And what more or what better could

be said of any man, especially of a business man, than that he was an honest man? It is pretty near the sum-total of business virtue.

"Shrewd as Mr. Edwards was in all his business deals, and clearly as he saw what was to his own advantage in making them, and accurate as was his judgment of the men with whom he was dealing and the motives by which they were actuated, he never lost sight of the fundamental principle of honesty. He played the game fairly. His word was good.

"His other characteristics were akin to this fundamental trait. He was sincere. He had no patience with shams or false pretenses. One always knew that he meant what he said and said what he meant. He was not a man of many words or high-sounding phrases. His speech was simple and straightforward. One always felt that Mr. Edwards would not say one thing to one's face and another thing behind one's back. So, too, he had a high sense of honor in all trust relations. In these days of complex inter-corporate relations, many young men engaged in large business affairs in which they occupy positions of trust, as officers or directors, are sometimes so blinded by their own self-interest as to sacrifice the interests of one set of beneficiaries to those of another set. Not so of Mr. Edwards. He never lost sight of the duty a director of a corporation owes to its stockholders. How wholesome and far-reaching the effect of such an attitude on his part was, no one can tell, for it was a source of strength to his associates who survive him.

"These three things, then, Mr. Edwards had, honesty, sincerity, fidelity.

"We need hardly speak of his aptitude for business. His success speaks for itself. He was, indeed, in many ways, an ideal of a man of affairs. He was industrious, indefatigable, painstaking, patient of details, losing sight of nothing of importance, and yet with a good sense of proportion. He was a keen judge of men and motives, a prime requisite to success in any business. And the faculty, his by nature, was developed by a long business experience, until his judgment in any business proposition was almost unerring. How we all grew to rely upon it!

"Last, but not least, we must refer to the kindness which he showed in all his personal relations with his business associates. He was never censorious, even when things seemed to go the wrong way. And he was always quick to appreciate and ready to reward faithful service."

The following extract from the public press comments upon the death of Mr. Edwards also throws an additional ray of illumination upon the high character of the deceased: "Among the sons of men we sometimes find a king uncrowned. This man was such. Giant in the business and commercial world, he was yet, withal, a manly man. Son of the soil, inured to

toil, fearing no task, neglecting no detail, he acquired the habit of accomplishing that which he undertook. He started at the bottom of obscurity. When his race was run, his life and influence had touched almost every field of endeavor. He made money helping others on their way. His business interests reached half the states in the Union. In many boards and groups of men, when fortunes were at stake, he spoke the final word. In affairs of the farm or city, his was the master hand. Men followed him without asking the reason why. Schools, churches, colleges and universities shared the contents of his purse and felt the magic power of his morally righteous life. Thousands will testify that William W. Edwards was their friend."

William W. Edwards was united in marriage, on May 10, 1888, to Carrie Donaldson, who was born at Grand Rapids, Ohio, where she resided until her marriage, except during the time she was engaged in teaching school during her young womanhood. She had prepared herself for teaching by a course of instruction in the college at Lebanon, Ohio, and was an excellent teacher. Mrs. Edwards continues to make her home at Leipsic, this county.

By an earlier marriage three children, all of whom survive, were born to William Edwards, as follow: Lillian, who married Dr. B. J. Emory, of Defiance, Ohio; E. C., who is now vice-president of the Buckeye National Bank, of Findlay, Ohio, and vice-president of the National Bank of Commerce, at Toledo, Ohio, in which sound financial institutions this worthy son of his distinguished father is, in a measure, taking the latter's place; Maude, who married Fred Spencer, of Ottawa, this county.

To William and Carrie (Donaldson) Edwards were born three children, all of whom survive, as follow: Ruth, the widow of Lawrence S. Lisle, who died on March 15, 1914, leaving a little son, Lawrence William; Catherine, who is now attending Mt. Holyoke College, in Massachusetts, and William Donaldson, aged seventeen, a sophomore at Western Reserve College.

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#### CHRISTIAN ZIMMERLY.

There is no earthly station higher than the ministry of the Gospel, and no life can be more uplifting or grand than that which is devoted to the amelioration of the spiritual ills of the human race, a life of sacrifice for the betterment of the brotherhood of man, one that is willing to cast aside all worthy crowns and laurels of fame to follow in the footsteps of the lowly Nazarene. It is not possible to measure adequately the height, depth and breadth of such a life, for its influence continues to permeate the lives of



others through succeeding generations, so the power it has cannot be known until the "last great day when the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible." Add to such a life, which is being lived entirely without the consideration of any pecuniary compensation, that other high calling of tilling the soil, and, still further, the spirit and energy which typified the early pioneers, and the result must inevitably be a man whose citizenship is a source of pride to his community and a vast benefit to his county.

Christian Zimmerly was born in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, October 6, 1841, a son of John and Anna (Berner) Zimmerly. John Zimmerly was born in Lemoges, France, June 14, 1781, and died in Riley township, Ohio, July 21, 1855, at the age of seventy-four. His parents were both natives of France, and died when he was very young, at which time the children were taken by other families in the neighborhood and by them were brought up.

John Zimmerly came to America in 1832 or 1833, at the age of fifty-one years. He landed in New York, and from there came to Ohio, over the Erie canal and Lake Erie. He settled first in Wayne county, Ohio, where he stayed about a year, and then moved to Putnam county, Ohio, where he made his home for a time with John Diller, whose wife, Elizabeth, was Mr. Zimmerly's sister.

About a year later, Anna Berner came to America. Later she became Mr. Zimmerly's wife. She was the daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Gridley) Berner, both of whom were natives of France and lived near Dotariet, France. Anna Berner was born in upper Alsace, France, April 4, 1801, and died in Wayne county, Ohio, March 23, 1895. She was three months making the voyage to New York, and spent two weeks on Lake Erie while finishing her journey to Ohio. While on the lake a storm was encountered which very nearly caused the entire party to lose their lives. After having reached Ohio, she remained for a time in Wayne county before she finally came to Putnam county, where she lived in the family of Michael Neunschwander, one of Putnam county's first settlers, for whom she worked. She was married to John Zimmerly shortly afterward.

Mrs. John Zimmerly's father was Samuel Berner, an officer in Napoleon's army at the time of the famous and disastrous campaign and march into Russia. At that time, when about half of Napoleon's army had perished, as the results of cold and hunger, Samuel Berner and eleven of his comrades escaped and made their way back home, where Samuel Berner died a year latter, from the hardships which he had endured. During those times, Mrs.

Zimmerly's mother and sisters were compelled to help dig trenches for defensive purposes and also to assist in burying the dead.

After his marriage, John Zimmerly entered one hundred and sixty acres of government land, the deed for which was signed by President Martin Van Buren, under the date of March 16, 1837, at the city of Washington, D. C. This farm, which lies about three and one-half miles southeast of Pandora, Ohio, has been in the family ever since that time. It was on this old homestead that Christian Zimmerly, the subject of this sketch, was born. A large portion of the farm, during its earlier days, lay under water, a fact which greatly added to the difficulties of its early improvement.

John Zimmerly and his wife endured all the hardest and bitterest experiences of the pioneers. Mr. Zimmerly was handicapped by a deformity, one of his legs being shorter than the other, which made it difficult for him to work. His wife assisted him in the woods when the farm was being cleared and, working together, they were able to clear and prepare for cultivation enough of the land to gain a living. Mr. Zimmerly was a weaver by trade and was also able to earn a little money by doing work of that sort for his neighbors. In that manner they struggled on year by year, clearing a little more land each season.

To add to their difficulties during the early days, they were obliged to go to Perrysburg, Ohio, a distance of sixty miles, to have their grain ground in a mill. Later, they were able to reach a mill at Tiffin, Ohio, which was thirty miles away, and later still their milling was done at Findlay, Ohio, a distance of sixteen miles from their home. Finally, a mill was started in Gilboa, Ohio, only six miles distant and later on mills were located still closer.

Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. John Zimmerly, they were Peter, John and Christian, the latter being the subject of this sketch.

Christian Zimmerly was born on the homestead on October 6, 1841, and played his part in the settling of that section and the development of the farm. From his early days he assisted his parents and brothers in the work of clearing the farm and of conducting the farm work. He tells an interesting story of one of his early experiences, which is illustrative of the occurrences in this section at that time. When he was a very small boy, he and his brothers went one day to bring in the cows. When they were found there was with them a magnificent buck deer. At the sight of the strange animal the little boys became frightened and lost no time in climbing a tree. The faithful family dog, which had accompanied them, attacked the deer and seized the animal by the throat, after which followed a battle royal between the dog and the frightened stag. The commotion, together with

the cries of the boys, attracted Isaac Cook, a neighbor, who came running to the scene and ended the battle by cutting the stag's jugular vein. Mr. Zimmerly has always retained a most vivid recollection of that experience, which made a deep impression on his boyish mind.

When Christian Zimmerly was fourteen years of age his father died, and the care of the homestead and of their mother was left to the three brothers. They worked hard and improved the farm year by year, managing to keep abreast of their neighbors in the development work.

When Christian Zimmerly was twenty-eight years of age on May 28, 1870, he married Mary Welty, who was born in Riley township, December 20, 1849, a daughter of John and Mary Ann (Gerber) Welty, both of whom were natives of Berne, Switzerland, and who came to America early in life, having settled in Riley township, Putnam county. Previous to his marriage, Mr. Zimmerly had taught school for six years, a profession in which he continued for one year following his marriage.

After their marriage, Christian Zimmerly and wife made their home on the old Zimmerly homestead, and Mr. Zimmerly and his brother, John, bought from their brother, Peter, his share in the farm. These brothers then operated the farm in partnership for a period of eight years, when Christian Zimmerly bought his brother John's share and has since operated the farm independently. He has continued to clear and improve the land until he now has one hundred and sixty acres cleared and suitable for cultivation, including forty acres of native timber.

Christian Zimmerly, in 1874, was ordained a preacher ("cast by lot") in the Mennonite church and, in 1880, he was made a bishop. For forty-two years he has preached to the members of that denomination, giving his services freely and without financial compensation of any sort. He has followed his ministerial calling in addition to his work as a farmer and has met with marked success in both.

He met with misfortune from fire in 1872, and lost the house which had been erected at the cost of such great effort. Later, in 1899, he met with a similar misfortune, at which time his large barn was burned.

Eleven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Christian Zimmerly, as follow: Sarah, now the wife of Levi Oberly; Caroline, the wife of Amos Augsburger; Mary Ann, the wife of Henry Habbigger; John, who is unmarried; David, who married Martha Lehman; Anna, the wife of Joshua Amstutz; Levina, the wife of William Habbegger; Paulina, the wife of Albert Lehman; Ardon, who married Amanda Lehman; Leonard who married Ida Mann, and Homer, who is unmarried and lives at home.

Mr. Zimmerly is a supporter of the principles of the Democratic party and has always taken an intelligent interest in the political affairs of his community, although he has never aspired to public office. He and Mrs. Zimmerly are both members of the Swiss Mennonite church, of which he is pastor.

Christian Zimmerly is one of the earliest settlers now living in the southwest part of Putnam county and is one of the county's best known and highly respected citizens. He is a type of the clean, high-minded citizen that, in many other sections, is all too fast disappearing. As a Christian minister, he is highly esteemed, and as a citizen and a man, there is no resident of the county who is more highly respected or better known.

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#### CARLETON P. PALMER.

It is the progressive, wide-awake man of affairs that makes the real history of a community. His influence, as a potential factor in the body politic, is difficult to estimate. The example such men furnish, of patient purpose and steadfast integrity, strongly illustrates what is in the power of each to accomplish. There is always a full measure of satisfaction in adverting, even in a casual way, to their achievements, in advancing the interests of their fellow men, in giving strength and solidity to the institutions which make so much for the prosperity of the community. Such a man is Carleton P. Palmer, the cashier of the Continental Bank, of Continental, Putnam county, Ohio, and, therefore, it is eminently proper that a review of his life be given among those of the representative citizens of this county.

Carleton P. Palmer was born on July 22, 1877, at Toledo, Ohio. He is a son of Paul B. and Stella (Donaldson) Palmer, the former of whom was born in 1847 at Toledo, Ohio, and who is a son of Nicholas Palmer and wife. Nicholas Palmer was a native of Plymouth, England, and came to America in the early thirties, being a pioneer settler at Toledo, Ohio. His wife also came from Plymouth, England, with her parents, who built the first house on what is now Summit street in the city of Toledo. It was a pioneer log cabin, built when Toledo was scarcely a promising village.

Paul B. Palmer was a teacher in the first business college in Toledo, but followed agricultural pursuits most of his life. He is now living retired in the city of Toledo. During the active years of his life he was an influential citizen of his community and a man who enjoyed the respect and esteem of all with whom he came in contact.



CARLETON P. PALMER.



Carleton P. Palmer spent his boyhood days on his father's farm, in the vicinity of Toledo. He was graduated from the Toledo high school with the class of 1896. After his graduation he engaged in the profession of teaching and became township superintendent of the schools in Richfield township, Lucas county, Ohio. He continued in this capacity until 1900, when he came to Continental and took a place in the Bank of Continental. He began here as a bookkeeper, but a year or so later became cashier and has held this position since that time. Mr. Palmer has proved himself an able business man. He quickly grasped the details of the banking business, and is naturally courteous and accommodating to the patrons of the bank. Nevertheless, he is firm, as one should be who handles money for others.

Mr. Palmer was married to Mae Edwards on November 19, 1908. She is the daughter of Joseph Edwards and wife of Leipsic, and to this union one son, Carleton Paul, Jr., has been born.

Mr. Palmer is a prominent Mason, having attained to the thirty-second degree in that order, and is also a member of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. Although a comparatively young man, he is one whose counsels are widely sought in financial and commercial transactions, and a man who has easily taken foremost rank in the commercial life of Continental and Monroe township. Mrs. Palmer is popular in Monroe township and active in many enterprises which call for the talent of women. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and contributes liberally to its moral uplift in the community.

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#### ISAAC S. RICKARD.

There are many excellent farmers in Van Buren township, Putnam county, Ohio, and among these may be mentioned Isaac S. Rickard, who has been engaged in agricultural pursuits in this township since 1894. As a lad he was compelled to help support the family on account of his four elder brothers serving in the Union army, and the experience he gained in his youth has been of invaluable benefit to him. Thrown early on his own resources, he has developed a self-reliant spirit and a resourcefulness which has made him the prosperous farmer he is today. He is a man of high ideals and sterling integrity and a great worker in the church.

Isaac S. Rickard, the son of Andrew Jackson and Hannah (Rockwell) Rickard, was born in Chautauqua county, New York, July 12, 1852. His father was born in New England and moved from New York to Medina, Ohio, in 1854, but remained in that city only a short time. He then removed

with his family to a farm east of East Milan, in Erie county, Ohio, where he farmed for a time. His next move was to a farm west of East Milan, on which he lived until 1861. In that year he moved to Wood county, Ohio, located on a farm near Bowling Green, and lived here during the Civil War. Later, he settled on a farm east of Bowling Green and lived on this farm until the death of his first wife. A few years later he married Mrs. Porter, but there were no children born to his second marriage. To his first marriage there were born eleven children, eight sons and three daughters, Ellen T., the wife of Henry Gross, and has eight children; Zina, who married Martha Sopher, and has eight children; Jacob, who is married and has one child; George W., who married Phlena Sopher, and has four children; Orange J., who married Jeanette McDonald, and has nine children; Elizabeth, the wife of William Sheets, and has five children, one of whom is deceased; Isaac S., of Putnam county; Phillip W., who married Julia Rathburn; John F., who married Emma Rathburn, and has one child, deceased; Lydia, who died at the age of nine, and Nathan B., who married Flora Taft, and has two children.

Isaac S. Rickard spent his boyhood days in Wood county, where he received a limited education in the rude district schools. When the Civil War broke out, though he was only nine years of age, he began to take an active part in the support of the family, his four elder brothers having gone to the front when it became necessary for him to take part of the burden of the family support on his own shoulders. He remained at home until he was married, at the age of twenty, and then began working on a farm near Toledo, Ohio. During the twenty years which elapsed from the time of his marriage until he permanently located in Putnam county, he lived in several places. After working a short time near Toledo, he moved to Miami, Ohio, thence to Milan, in Erie county, and worked in the latter place for about nine years. His next change took him to Wood county, where he located four miles northwest of Milton Center, and where his wife died. After her death he moved to Milton Center, in which place he remained until his second marriage in the fall of 1893. In the following year he moved to Putnam county and located in Van Buren township, where he has since resided.

Mr. Rickard was first married on November 24, 1873, to Madora Jane Sheets, the daughter of Albert Sheets. She was born in Wood county, Ohio, March 12, 1855, and spent her girlhood days in the same county. To this first union of Isaac S. Rickard were born four children, Melville, who married Julia Cuisno, died January 9, 1915, they have one daughter, Sadie; Fanny M., the wife of Hiram Cain, has two children, Emma, and Madora,



deceased; Albert, who died at the age of nine, and one who died in infancy. The first wife of Mr. Rickard died in May, 1887, and on August 20, 1893, he was married to Mrs. Sarah C. (Simonds) Eastom, a daughter of Justice and Lourana (Morehead) Simonds. She was born near Gilboa, Putnam county, Ohio. There were no children to this second marriage.

Justice Simonds, the father of Mrs. Rickard, was born in New Hampshire, February 10, 1809, the son of Jonathan and Sophia (Sanborn) Simonds, who were of New England stock and natives of New Hampshire. When Justice Simonds was a small boy, his parents moved to Medina, Orleans county, New York, and here he was bound out to learn the trade of a millwright. In Orleans county, New York, the mother of Justice Simonds died, and, after growing to maturity, Justice Simonds moved from New York state to Putnam county, Ohio, where he continued to follow his trade as a millwright. Among other pioneer buildings, he helped to construct the Charles Harmon mill on the Blanchard river. Justice Simonds was married in 1840 to Lourana Morehead, a daughter of Alexander Morehead. She was born on May 8, 1822, and died in July, 1895. Justice Simonds and wife were the parents of nine children, Sanborn, who died in infancy; George, who married Mollie Foltz, and died June 25, 1908; Sarah, the wife of Mr. Rickard; Jeanette, the wife of David Redding, who died in January, 1911; Elmira, the wife of Andrew Fike; Mary Ann, deceased, who was married, respectively, to Martin Wert, James Boyer and William Tuller; Eliza, the wife of William Bryan; Louminda, the wife of Charles Farquharson; John, who died at the age of twenty-one.

After his marriage, Justice Simonds lived for several years on a farm near Gilboa, but, in 1860, removed to another farm three miles north of Leipsic, where he lived until his death, April 25, 1885. Sarah Simonds, the wife of Mr. Rickard, was first married to Frank Eastom, March 21, 1863, and to her first marriage one son, George, was born. He married Bertha Steffer, of Hamilton, Ohio, September 20, 1895, and now makes his home in Denver, Colorado. George Eastom and wife are the parents of four children, Frank, Helen and George are living, and Bertha is deceased. George Eastom is in the real estate and machinery business in Denver.

Mr. Rickard and his wife are loyal members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Rickard was ordained in the ministry of the Church of Christ, about twenty-five years ago, but has since transferred his membership to the Methodist church. He has preached for four or five years, but has devoted the greater part of his life to farming, although he has always been very active in all church work. He is a man highly respected and honored in his community, where he has lived a life of usefulness.

## CHRISTIAN DAVIS.

The specific history of the great Middle West was made by the pioneers, and it is not necessary to trace it back farther than a generation in order to reach the pioneers who were instrumental in founding this great territory. In fact, there are many men yet living who played important parts in the foundation and development of Ohio and neighboring states. Those pioneers who built their rude homes in the forests, which then covered this country, and turned the wilderness into broad stretches of fertile and cultivated fields, were hardy and industrious men of the finest type. To have established, or to have aided in the work which established, a home amid such surroundings, and to cope with the many privations and hardships which were the inevitable concomitants, demanded an invincible courage and fortitude, strong hearts and willing hands. All those were characteristics of the pioneers, whose names and deeds should be held in perpetual reverence by those who enjoy the fruits of their toil, and among that number is the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this sketch, and who for many years has been numbered among the most prominent citizens of Putnam county.

Christian Davis was born in Monroe county, Ohio, April 8, 1843, a son of Michael and Catherine (Stauffer) Davis. Michael Davis, his father, was born in Pennsylvania in 1875. Little is known of his early life in Pennsylvania, except that he left there in the early days and came to Wayne county, Ohio. There he met the subject's mother, Mrs. Catherine (Stauffer) Lugibihl, to whom he was married.

Mrs. Davis was born in Basel, Switzerland, where she spent her youth and where she was married to Mr. Lugibihl. To that union was born one daughter, Catherine. Shortly after her birth, Mr. Lugibihl died, and his wife and child came to America, where she entered the employment of Mr. Bixel, of Wayne county, Ohio, in which position she worked until her marriage with Mr. Davis.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Davis moved to Monroe county, where Michael Davis had purchased a small farm. There they lived for about ten years, when Mr. Davis died, at the age of forty-seven. Four children had been born to Mr. and Mrs. Davis, Fannie, deceased, who was the wife of Anthony Sawin, and to whom three children were born; Rebecca, deceased, who was the wife of Andy Foy, to whom three children were born; John, who married Magdalena Moser, and to whom one son was born, and Christian, the subject of this sketch.

After her husband's death, Mrs. Davis moved to Putnam county and settled on forty acres of farm land one and one-half miles southwest of Pandora, in Riley township. This land she had purchased previous to moving to Putnam county, with money which she had earned and saved prior to her marriage to Mr. Davis. About five years later, when the subject of this sketch was nine years of age, Mrs. Davis was married a third time, her third husband having been Jacob Hipscher. Mr. and Mrs. Hipscher lived together until 1883, when Mrs. Hipscher came to live with her son, Christian, with whom she remained until her death in 1891, thus ending a useful and eventful life.

At the age of nine years, Christian Davis left home and went to live with his uncle, Christian Basinger, where he remained for nearly two years. He then lived with Abraham Detwiler, with whom, also, he remained for two years. After having left Mr. Detwiler's home, the subject shifted for himself, working on the various farms and at various other occupations until he was twenty-six years of age. When he was about twenty years old, in 1863, he went with a friend, Henry Griswire, to Ontario, Canada, where they remained three years. From there the subject of this sketch went to Michigan, where he worked in the pineries for about a year.

When Mr. Davis was twenty-six years of age he married Elizabeth Schmitz, who was born in Baden, Germany, August 17, 1844, a daughter of Abraham and Christina Schmitz. After his marriage, Mr. Davis and Nick Shively erected a saw-mill in Riley township, which they operated for four years. At the end of that time Mr. Davis sold his share in the mill and bought forty acres of farm land, two miles west of Pandora, Riley township.

There was a small frame house and a barn on the farm when he settled there, in which he made his home. Later he purchased another farm of forty acres, which adjoined his original holdings on the north. He built a larger house on his new land, and still occupies it. Sometime after this he bought out the heirs of his mother's farm of forty acres, which he eventually sold. He still retains his farm of eighty acres.

To Mr. and Mrs. Christian Davis eight children were born, as follow: Gideon B., who was born on August 28, 1869, and died in 1908; Katharina, who was born on March 19, 1871, and died 1893. She was the wife of Amos Gratz and the mother of one child, Clyde, who died when two years of age; Christina was born on May 28, 1872, and is the wife of Seth Basinger, to them three children, Ula, Clyde and Clitus, have been born; Itha, born on June 3, 1874, is the wife of Lawn Scheets and has four children,

Edna, Lella, Mahala and Evangeline; Emma, born on December 15, 1876, is unmarried and lives at home; Karolina, born on December 30, 1878, died on January 18, 1880; Elizabeth, born on June 30, 1880, is the wife of Rayton Core and has two children, Arlena and Raymond; Mina was born on September 20, 1883, and is the wife of Hiram Basinger.

Mr. Davis has always done general farming and has been very successful. A few years ago he devoted considerable attention to the buying and feeding of cattle for market, a business in which he met with great success.

Mr. Davis is a supporter of the Democratic party. For several years he has served his community as a school director, and has also been for a number of years a supervisor, conducting the affairs of both offices to the complete satisfaction of the citizens.

Mr. Davis is one of Riley township's best-known citizens and is highly respected by all his neighbors. He is a man of many sterling qualities and of unquestioned integrity.

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#### GUY R. COIT.

It is not an easy task to describe adequately the career of a man who has led an eminently active and busy life and who has obtained a position of relative distinction in the community with which his interests are allied. Biography, however, finds a most perfect justification in tracing and recording the main point in such a life history. With a full appreciation of all that is demanded, and with a satisfaction that is keenly felt, the biographer undertakes to point out a few facts in the career of Guy R. Coit, a well-known real estate and insurance dealer, at Kalida, Ohio, and at present the mayor of Kalida.

Guy R. Coit was born in Vaughnsville, Ohio, in Sugar Creek township, November 20, 1880. Mr. Coit left Vaughnsville, Ohio, at the age of four years and grew up in Kalida, where he received his education. He worked at different occupations until 1903, when he started in the real estate business at that place. He is still actively engaged in this business. He is also engaged in the loan and insurance business and has had a lucrative patronage from the time he started. Mr. Coit was cashier of the Peoples Banking Company at Kalida for about twenty months, and city clerk of Kalida during 1907 and 1908. He has been councilman for some years and is now mayor of Kalida, having been elected to this position in the fall of 1911.

Guy R. Coit, was married on August 1, 1905, to Effie Downing, a native

of Jackson township, Putnam county, Ohio, and a daughter of John L. and Lydia (Sybert) Downing. John L. Downing, at present a stove jointer at Piggott, Arkansas, was born near West Cairo, Allen county, Ohio, February 21, 1859, and was married in 1877 at Vaughnsville, Ohio, to Lydia Ann Sybert, who was born in 1857, near Bluffton, Allen county, Ohio. John L. Downing was the son of John Downing, who was born near West Cairo, Ohio, in 1820 and who died in 1861. John Downing married Rebecca Foster, who was born in 1823, in Allen county, Ohio, and died in 1864. They had the following children: John L., of Piggott, Arkansas; Mary C., of Winfield, Kansas, and Harrison, who died in infancy. John Downing was the son of Adam Downing, who was of Irish descent and a pioneer in this section of the country and who is believed to have fought the Indians. Adam Downing married Sarah Allen, who was of Welsh descent and a native of eastern Ohio.

Mrs. Lydia Ann (Sybert) Downing was the daughter of Barney and Effie (Long) Sybert, the former of whom died in 1861, and the latter in 1890. They were the parents of the following children: William, Ann, Clint, George, Hobert, Henry, Benjamin, Louisa, Alice, Sarah, Lydia, Daniel and Hiram.

John L. and Lydia Ann Downing were the parents of the following children: George, born in 1877, who lives at Piggott, Arkansas; Joe, born in 1880, who married Blanche Sellers, lives in Boynton, Arkansas, and has five children; Armena, Georgia, Lavern, Zelma and Mary; Mrs. Louisa Mack, born in 1882, who lives at Nimmons, Arkansas. She was married at Defiance, Ohio, in 1900, and has four children, Georgia, Russell, Jessie and Clarence; Mrs. Pearl Little, born in 1883, is married and has nine children, Jemima, Gladys, Hazel, Beulah, Vellam, Genevieve, Clayton, Edna and John; Grover, born in 1885, married Grace Palmondon in 1905, and has two children, his wife died in 1908; Mildred, who lives at Boynton, Arkansas, married Girty Strats and has one child, Viola; William Wallace, born in 1886, who lives at Malden, Missouri, married Mary Jaunt in 1907, and has three children, Franklin, Leonard and Sherman; Effie, born in 1887, married Mr. Coit.

John L. Downing is a member of Jonathan Lodge No. 115, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Monett, Arkansas.

To Mr. and Mrs. Coit five children have been born, Guy, Dorland, Doyle, Fremont and Helen. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons at Kalida. He is also a member of the chapter and council. He is one of the leaders in the councils of the Republican party in this section of

Ohio, and to him perhaps more than to any other man, the state leaders of the party look for a substantial vote from Putnam county. Mr. and Mrs. Coit are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Kalida, where he is a trustee of the church and has taught a Sunday school class for the past seven years. Mr. Coit's family are also members of this church. Guy R. Coit is a "mixer" and a man who attends strictly to his own business. He has a host of friends and is widely known throughout Putnam county. He is known as a booster for all city improvements and, although he is progressive in spirit, he is a quiet man and a deep thinker. He is a man who has succeeded largely because of his capacity for devoting himself to details.

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PETER A. AMSTUTZ.

The two most strongly marked characteristics of both the east and the west are combined in the residents of Ohio. The enthusiastic enterprise which overleaps all obstacles and makes possible almost any undertaking in the comparatively new and vigorous western states is here tempered by the stable and more careful policies that we have borrowed from our eastern neighbors. The combination is one of unusual force and power. It has been the means of placing this section of the country on a par with the older east, and at the same time producing a reliability and certainty in business affairs which are frequently lacking in the west. This happy combination is also possessed, in a notable degree, by Peter A. Amstutz, for several years now the efficient cashier of the Farmers Banking Company of Pandora. He is too well known to the readers of this volume to need any formal introduction here, for his name is deeply fixed in the financial, commercial, professional and industrial history of this section of the state. Mr. Amstutz, himself, is filling a large place in the public affairs of his community. He is recognized as a man of strong and alert mentality, deeply interested in everything that pertains to the welfare of the community. He is a progressive and enterprising business man and a representative citizen of Riley township and Putnam county.

Peter A. Amstutz was born on February 9, 1868, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, the son of Abraham M. and Catherine (Hilty) Amstutz, the former of whom was born on September 20, 1844, in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio, and the latter was born on April 19, 1848, in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio.

Abraham M. Amstutz is the son of John and Barbara (Tschantz) Am-



PETER A. AMSTUTZ.





stutz. John Amstutz was born in Switzerland and came to America in 1840 with his wife and three children. They settled in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio, near Bluffton. John Amstutz was a farmer in Switzerland and the Amstutz family was an old one in the community from which he came. It is related that the name Amstutz originated from a family by the name of Stutz who lived on a hill, the German prefix "am" meaning "on the," being prefixed to the name Stutz and resulting in the final Amstutz, which means "on the hill." Another explanation of the name Amstutz is given, which says that Stutz means a "steep hill," or rather "a bluff" or "precipice." Perhaps a John Stutz lived at or near to this bluff or precipice, and, to distinguish him from other Johns, it was said that he was John Amstutz, meaning the John who lived by the precipice.

John Amstutz and his little family were fifty-two days on a sailing vessel in coming to America. They came directly to Allen county, where John Amstutz settled on a farm just north of Bluffton. After two years he removed to a farm one-half mile south of Columbia, later called Pendleton, and, still later, Pandora. Here he made his future home, clearing the land and draining it. He built an adobe house of mud and straw about 1855, a part of which is standing today. The mud and straw were mixed by oxen trained for the feat. In addition to being a farmer, John Amstutz was a minister in the Mennonite church and was an active minister until the time of his death. He was also a mechanic of considerable ability, and in the early days he made spinning wheels for spinning both wool and cotton. After spending a most useful life, he died at a ripe old age, in 1858, on the old homestead south of Pandora.

John and Barbara Amstutz were the parents of five children, three of the eldest having been born in Switzerland, and the two youngest in Allen and Putnam counties. All lived to maturity. They were: Fannie, the wife of Jonas Amstutz, both deceased; Marian, the wife of Abraham Bixter, both deceased; Christian, who married Barbara Schuhmacher, both deceased; Abraham, who married Catherine Hilty, the parents of Peter A.; Peter M., deceased, who had three wives, Anna Light, deceased, Belle Sitlemeyer, deceased, and Mrs. Downing.

Abraham M. Amstutz spent his boyhood on the old homestead and here grew to manhood. He attended the common schools and at the age of twenty-two was married to Catherine Hilty, the daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Neuenschwander) Hilty, both natives of Switzerland, who came to America in the early days. They settled in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio, four miles west of Bluffton. They were the parents of eleven

children: Isaac, John, Barbara, Benjamin, Catherine, Noah, Mary (deceased), Sarah (deceased), Peter, Samuel and Elizabeth (deceased). The parents of these children spent the remainder of their lives on the old homestead in Allen county, and it was here that Mrs. Amstutz grew to womanhood, received her early education and remained until she was married. She was married in January, 1866, at the age of eighteen.

After their marriage they settled on a portion of the old John Amstutz homestead, south of Pandora. Here Abraham Amstutz pursued farming until he retired and moved to Pandora, in 1908. He has been a successful farmer and stock raiser. He is an ardent Democrat and was president of the township school board for a number of years. He is a man possessed of strong civic pride, of sterling integrity and is held in high esteem by his fellow citizens. He is also an active and consistent member of the Grace Mennonite church and was trustee in the old Swiss church. Abraham M. and Catherine Amstutz have had eleven children: Peter, the subject of this sketch; Barbara, the wife of Jacob Suter; John, who married Susan Basinger; Elizabeth, the wife of Elias Welty; Levina, the deceased wife of John Gerber; Amos, who died in infancy; Llewellyn, who first married Nona Lora and later Della Suter; Albert, who married Malinda Gratz; Edwin, who died at the age of five years; Mary, the wife of A. J. Welty, and Selma, the wife of William Lugibihl.

Peter A. Amstutz was born on the old home place, south of Pandora, and lived there until 1891, when he was twenty-three years of age. Here he received his early education and here he lived while he was a student in the high school at Pandora and Crawfis College. During his boyhood he helped his father on the farm, and later taught school. When he was twenty-three years old he took a clerkship in a general store in Columbus Grove and held this position for six years.

Mr. Amstutz was married, at the age of twenty-four, on January 5, 1893, to Persis Basinger, the daughter of Jacob C. and Mary (Basinger) Basinger. She was born on November 19, 1870, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. Her people were pioneers of Putnam county. To this happy union six children have been born: Orpha E., who is a student at Ohio State University; William B., who is a student at Bliss College, at Columbus; Harley C., who is a student in the high school; Wendell H. and Margaret J., who are both at home and attending the graded school, and Roland, who died at the age of seven months.

After spending six years at Columbus Grove, Mr. Amstutz bought a new general store at Pandora. He remained in this business for about one

year and then took a partner, the new firm becoming P. A. Amstutz & Company. This business was conducted with marked success until 1903, when Mr. Amstutz bought a farm in Richland township, Allen county, which he operated for one year. He then made a short stay in Petoskey, Michigan, after which he purchased an interest in the Pandora Hardware Company, in the fall of 1905. Mr. Amstutz controlled a half interest in this concern and withdrew from the active management of it in the fall of 1909. At this time Mr. Amstutz was elected cashier of the Farmers Banking Company, of Pandora, which position he still holds. Previously he had been a director of the bank, which position he still retains.

Peter A. Amstutz is a Democrat, and has served as township clerk for three terms. He was also clerk of the school board. He is a prominent member and one of the founders of the Grace Mennonite church. He has been secretary and treasurer of this congregation since its organization. Mr. Amstutz has been a successful business man and banker in this community for several years. He stands high in the vicinity in which he lives, and no better evidence of this fact is required than reference to the many positions of trust and responsibility which he has held and which he now occupies. He is an upright citizen, a good neighbor and a fine father. His character and integrity are above question, and it is to him that the best people of the community come for counsel and advice, which Mr. Amstutz is eminently qualified to give. He is present mayor of Pandora, his term to expire in 1916. He was president of the city council of Pandora for four years.

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#### CHARLES FREMONT ALKIRE.

Men who take an active interest in public questions are ever honored by their community. They are known as leaders, and by their helpfulness and counsel contribute materially to the public welfare. A man of this character is Charles F. Alkire, a well-known farmer of Riley township. Mr. Alkire, who is one of the most successful farmers of Putnam county, is descended from a line of illustrious ancestors, men who fought in the early wars of this country and who did their part in their day and generation to establish the foundation of a government which their posterity is enjoying today.

Mr. Alkire was born on December 10, 1856, at Pandora. He is the son of George W. and Catherine (Hart) Alkire. George W. Alkire was born

in Madison county, Ohio, December 25, 1826, and he was the son of William M. and Hannah (Osborn) Alkire. William M. Alkire was born on November 10, 1799, in Kentucky, and he was the son of William and Elizabeth (More) Alkire. William Alkire was born in 1751, in Germany, and married in 1778. He came to America prior to the American Revolution, settling in Kentucky. Here William M., his son, was born on November 10, 1799. William M. was a millwright by trade and served in the War of 1812. He came to Madison county when a young man and was married here on December 4, 1822, to Hannah Osborn, who was born in Virginia, on August 11, 1804. She died on April 15, 1843, in that portion of Putnam county which later became a part of Allen county. William M. died at the home of his son, George W., north of Pandora, on January 25, 1886. He had come to Putnam county in 1834, when George W. was eight years old, and later settled in the north part of Richland township, Allen county, entering land from the government, and passing through all the pioneer experiences common to his day and generation. After his wife's death, he traded his homestead for a store at Pandora, traded the store for eighty acres in Defiance county. Subsequently, he made his home with his son, George W., who was then living at Pandora.

George W. Alkire was reared as a farm boy and was one of six children, Edwards P. served in the Civil War and lived in Manistee county, Michigan; Richard was a farmer in Putnam county; Madison an orange grower in California; and John in Picqua county, Ohio, and Adam, of Riverside, California. George W. Alkire was married in 1851, to Miss Catherine Hart, daughter of John and Mary (Meng) Hart, both natives of Pennsylvania. John Hart came to Putnam county in 1842, entered land in the fall. He was three times married. He first married Mary Meng, three of whose children died in infancy, the others being, Mrs. Alkire, Elizabeth, Mrs. Dora Brown, Absalom, Samuel, John F. and Margaret. Mary Meng Hart died in 1866, after which Mr. Hart removed to Allen county, where he died in 1887. He and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church. George W. Alkire and wife were the parents of six children, four of whom were reared to maturity, John A., of Valparaiso, Indiana; Charles Fremont, of Putnam county; William H., also of Putnam county, and Mary E., the wife of James Preston. Mr. and Mrs. George Alkire were members of the Presbyterian church.

Charles Fremont Alkire remained in Pandora with his parents until he was seven years old, when they moved one and one-half miles north of Pandora. Here Charles Fremont spent his boyhood days on the old home

place, alternating the summer and winter months between the district school and his father's farm, until, at the age of nineteen, when, with his brothers John and William, farmed the home place for one year. For the ensuing three years he and his younger brother, William, farmed it together, and for the next two Charles farmed the place alone.

About this time, on January 19, 1882, Mr. Alkire was married to Minerva Kellen, the daughter of John and Catherine (Joseph) Kellen. Mrs. Alkire was born on December 7, 1857. She died on December 19, 1882. One child, Mary C., was born to this union. She now resides with Mr. Alkire.

After suffering the great misfortune of Mrs. Alkire's death, Mr. Alkire was joined again by his younger brother William and together they farmed the home place for two years. In the fall of 1885, Mr. Alkire was married to Mary Mallahan, who was born in Hancock county, August 3, 1857, and who is the daughter of Charles F and Jane (Downing) Mallahan. Charles F. Mallahan died on December 30, 1877, just before he was to have taken the office of county commissioner, to which he had previously been elected. Charles F. Mallahan's grandfather and John Downing were under the command of General Hull when he surrendered Detroit. They saw General Cass break his sword rather than to surrender it to the British. Charles F. Mallahan was born on September 26, 1818, in Fairfield county, Ohio. He was the son of Thompson and Sarah (Clymer) Mallahan, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter a native of Maryland. Thompson Mallahan died in Fairfield county in 1833, when Charles F. was fifteen years of age. Jane (Downing) Mallahan was born on January 25, 1817, in Pike county, Ohio, and was the daughter of John and Mary (Boiler) Downing, the former a native of Virginia.

After his second marriage, Mr. Alkire continued farming on the old home place for two years. In the spring of 1888, he moved to a farm of seventy-five acres, which was a part of the old Mallahan place in the northwest part of Riley township. Mr. and Mrs. Alkire moved into an old house on the place, where he immediately erected a new building. The place had an old log barn which served two years, which was supplanted by a smaller frame building. He built a large and commodious barn in 1897, and since that time has added other improvements in keeping with the surroundings.

By this second marriage three children have been born, Charles G. was born on October 19, 1887, and died on August 27, 1888; Clifford M. was born on February 17, 1891; Ralph M. was born on August 29, 1898. Clifford M. and Ralph M. are both unmarried and live at home.

Mr. Alkire has always done general farming and has made a specialty

of raising good cattle and horses. He has been very successful with live stock.

Mr. Alkire is a Republican. Mrs. Alkire is a member of the Christian church. Charles Fremont Alkire is a clean-cut, progressive farmer, coming from an old pioneer family. He enjoys the respect of his fellow citizens and his integrity has always been above question.

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### JOHN HABEGGER.

Putnam county, Ohio, enjoys a remarkable reputation on account of the high order of its citizenship, none of whom occupies a more enviable position in the esteem of his fellows than John Habegger, a successful farmer of Riley township, who has lived here practically all his life. A residence in Putnam county of sixty years has given his neighbors and the men with whom he has been associated a full opportunity to observe him in the various spheres of endeavor and activity in which he has been engaged. His present high standing is due solely to his honorable and upright career. As a leading citizen of Riley township and Putnam county, Mr. Harbegger is eminently entitled to representation in a work of this character.

John Habegger was born on March 17, 1856, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is a son of John and Elizabeth (Steiner) Habegger. John Habegger, Sr., was born in 1811 in the canton of Berne, Switzerland, and came to America with his parents at the age of twenty-two or about 1833. They came direct to Putnam county, where they settled in Riley township, on what is now known as the Fred Welty farm, about three miles east of Pandora. John Habegger, Sr., was married shortly after his arrival in this country to Elizabeth Steiner. She was a native of Switzerland and likewise came to America with her parents, making the voyage in about two months. Her parents settled in Putnam county, where she was married.

John Habegger, Sr., lived for about two years on the place east of Pandora, and was employed during this time by some of the early settlers of this part of the county. In the meantime, he purchased forty acres of land two and one-half miles north of Pandora and moved to this farm. This land was in the virgin forest and was covered with water during a part of the year. He first built a log cabin in the woods and cleared a little patch of ground. During the larger part of his younger married life he was compelled to continue his labors for other settlers on account of high waters

on his farm. It was a good many years before this part of the country was ditched. It is related by Mr. Habegger's son that in those early days the pioneers were compelled to carry supplies to their farms on their backs. Some years later, Mr. Habegger bought a block of four hundred and eighty acres of land from the Hilty estate, adjoining his land on the south. This land he purchased with the understanding that his neighbors would help him out by taking a part of the same off his hands. They, however, did not fulfill their part of the agreement as he expected, and though he finally disposed of the greater part of this tract, it was at a greatly reduced price and he barely got out of it what he had paid for it. He managed to retain one hundred and twenty acres for his eldest son and twenty acres for himself. Subsequently, he managed to get his farm all cleared up and drained. He built a substantial frame house and barn.

Mr. and Mrs. John Habegger, Sr., were the parents of nine children: Barbara, the wife of Nicholas Kauffman; Christina, the wife of Christian Neuenschwander; Isaac, who married Rebecca Shank; Anna, the wife of Samuel Kohl; Mary, who first married John Neuenschwander, and, after his death, Frank Pelzel; Catherine, the wife of Peter Nusbaum; Elizabeth, the wife of Henry Smutz; Mary Ann became the wife of Joel Basinger, and John, the immediate subject of this sketch.

John Habegger, Sr., died about 1885, at the ripe old age of seventy-four years. One year later, his wife, who was born in 1812, died at the same age. They were both members of the Mennonite church and lived consistent Christian lives.

John Habegger, Jr., was born on the old homestead, and here spent his childhood and youth, attending the district schools, and assisting his father with the work on the farm.

Mr. Habegger was married on December 28, 1876, at the age of twenty, to Angeline Reed, who was born in Blanchard township, in this county, about two miles west of Gilboa, on July 9, 1857. She is a daughter of George and Elizabeth (Parks) Reed, the former a son of John and Mary Reed, was a native of Pennsylvania. He came to Muskingum county, Ohio, in an early day, where he met and married his wife, Elizabeth Parks, the daughter of Doctor Parks and wife. After his marriage in Muskingum county, he moved to Hancock county, Ohio, and after living here for about ten or twelve years, moved to Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, where his daughter, Angeline, the wife of Mr. Habegger, was born. George and Elizabeth Reed were the parents of ten children, one of whom died at birth. The others were as follows: Margaret, the wife of Jacob Nicewander;

John, who married Ada Crawfis; Mary, who became the wife of Nicholas Miller; Anna, who died in infancy; George, who first married Eliza Emmons, and later Cynthia Henderson; Angeline, the wife of Mr. Habegger; Sarah, the wife of Henry Kitchener; Isadore, the wife of John DeVore; Herman, whose first wife was Ella Snyder.

After his marriage Mr. Habegger worked on the neighboring farms for about a year, and then rented the home place, where he has lived ever since. About two years after his father's death, Mr. Habegger bought the old home place from the other heirs, and it has remained in his possession since that date. John Habegger, Jr., has been a hard-working and industrious farmer, and by dint of energy has greatly improved the home place, until today he has one of the nicest farms of its size in Riley township.

Mr. and Mrs. Habegger have had two children, Clara Elizabeth, born on November 14, 1877, is the wife of Curtis Franchauser, of Pandora, and they have two children, Amy Grace and John Laurel; Herman Otto, the younger child of Mr. and Mrs. Habegger, was born on August 12, 1880, and died on August 3, 1882.

Mr. Habegger is a Democrat, but has never been active in the councils of his party, although he takes a worthy interest in public affairs. He attends the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his wife is a member. Mr. Habegger is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 509, at Pandora. He is one of the most favorably known men in Riley township, a progressive farmer and a genial, good-natured, honorable citizen.

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### WILLIAM W. SMITH.

When a good man passes away, then do people mourn; his family, his friends, his fellow citizens, with whom he has labored for the common good, bow their heads in grief. He is no more, yet his works go on and on. There is no end to the influence of a good man. Only his body dies. The late William W. Smith was so closely identified with the history of Putnam county for so many years, that this volume would be incomplete if it failed to pay a proper tribute to his life and work.

The late William W. Smith, former editor and publisher of the *Leipsic Free Press*, was a son of John and Mary Jane (Boylan) Smith. John Smith was a son of Nimrod and Mary (Sauer) Smith, the former of whom was



a native of Pennsylvania, who settled in Stark county, Ohio, in an early day. Subsequently, he removed to Hancock county, where he died as the consequence of an accident. Nimrod Smith was one of the pioneers of his day, fond of hunting and fishing. John Smith was born on November 19, 1826, in Stark county, and was reared as a farmer. He was twice married, first on June 14, 1849, to Jane Boylan, who died on August 28, 1851. To this union were born two children, namely: Maroa J., the wife of Irvin Blair, of Hubbard, Iowa, and William W., the immediate subject of this sketch. The second wife of John Smith was Susan Farver, to whom he was married on May 25, 1854. To this marriage seven children were born: Mary E., born on March 15, 1855, married David Hoskins, and died on September 5, 1880; Eugene F., born on February 28, 1857, and died on April 6, 1877; Clarissa A., born on December 5, 1858, died on February 26, 1873; Benjamin M., born on March 27, 1862, died on September 25, 1863; Norris A., born on March 18, 1864, died on March 31, 1877; Cora M., born on January 12, 1867, is the wife of Otto Harman; Burton S., born on January 6, 1870, died on March 29, 1877. Of this large family, only two children are living, Mrs. Cora Harmon, of Los Angeles, California, and Mrs. Maroa Blair, of Hubbard, Iowa. The venerable John Smith, the father of these children, is still hale and hearty at the advanced age of eighty-eight.

William W. Smith was born on a farm in Blanchard township, Hancock county, Ohio, April 5, 1850. He moved to Putnam county with his parents in 1855, locating on a farm east of Gilboa.

Mr. Smith attended the country schools, and was such an earnest student that at the age of fifteen he was able to obtain a teacher's certificate, and began teaching in 1865. With the exception of a few years spent in the Findlay high school, and at Heidelberg College, at Tiffin, Ohio, Mr. Smith followed the occupation of a teacher until 1878. He came to Leipsic in 1870 and was married on August 27, 1874, to Viola Baughman, the youngest daughter of Abraham Baughman and wife. Mr. Smith founded the *Leipsic Free Press* in 1878. His first paper was issued on September 13, 1878. His whole life was devoted to this paper and its interests. Space was always given in aid to all good causes, and, with it as an instrument, Mr. Smith probably did more good than any other man in Leipsic. He was always on the right side of all local questions, and the columns of the *Free Press* were ever open to discussion of topics for the good of the community. He was broad and sympathetic, quick to distinguish the right, and not slow to take a decided stand for it. His editorials were little sermons in themselves, and

went forth to cheer many a weary soul upon his way to better living. His whole aim was to bring his paper and his print shop to the highest standard, and to this end he devoted every moment possible, and until just before his death, February 16, 1912, he was in his editorial chair, guiding and directing his paper.

Mr. and Mrs. William W. Smith were the parents of two sons, Clyde L. and George F. Clyde is now a practicing physician at Fremont, Ohio, and George F. succeeded his father as editor of the *Leipsic Free Press*.

Mr. Smith was an ardent Democrat, and took an active interest in the councils of his party. He was postmaster of Leipsic, at one time, filling this position to the entire satisfaction of the patrons. Mr. Smith was a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, from the blue lodge to the thirty-second degree, and next to his family and his work, he loved this fraternal order. He was affiliated with the Leipsic lodge, the encampment of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and also a member of the Leipsic lodge of Knights of Pythias. Mr. Smith was a devoted and earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and the Sabbath always found him in his church pew, an attentive listener to the pastor.

It seems fitting to close this sketch with a tribute made to the late Mr. Smith at the time of his death: "Loving and generous even to a fault, there was nothing father could do that was not done. He was a dutiful husband, always considerate of every wish of his devoted wife and their two children. He is gone, but the loving deeds of husband and father will ever remain a sweet memory of one who has made the world better by living in it."

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#### CHRISTIAN A. HART.

Among the families of Putnam county, Ohio, whose members have worthily discharged their duties to their fellows and to their communities, no family takes higher rank than that of the Hart family. For many years the members of this family have stood for all that is best in business, educational, moral and social life, and have wielded an influence that is potential in the development and welfare of this county. Christian A. Hart is numbered among the enterprising and progressive citizens of Putnam county. Because of the prominence which the family has enjoyed and the close relation they have attained to the welfare and prosperity of the locality, hon-

ored by his citizenship, he is eminently entitled to representation in the work of the character of the one in hand.

Christian A. Hart was born on December 30, 1862, in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, the son of Samuel L. and Anna (Amstutz) Hart. Samuel L. Hart was born on January 13, 1840, the son of John S. Hart. John S. Hart was a native of Pennsylvania and came to Ohio in an early day, settling in the southeast part of Pleasant township. Here Samuel L. Hart was reared and, here also, Christian A. Hart was born. When Christian A. Hart was three years old, his mother died and he was taken care of by a paternal uncle, John, and his sister, Margaret. He continued in their care for about two years, or until Samuel L. Hart had been married a second time to Sarah Kaufman, when he was again taken care of by his father and foster mother. Christian A. Hart had a younger brother, John S., and an elder sister, Mary, who were children by the first marriage. After Samuel L. Hart was married the second time, he and his family moved one and one-fourth miles north of Pandora and here Christian A. Hart spent his childhood and youth. Here he attended the district schools and helped his father on the farm. He also helped to clear away the timber.

After finishing the district schools, he attended Otterbein College, where he took a normal course of three terms. After that he again returned home and continued to help his father until he was married at the age of twenty-two.

Christian A. Hart was married on December 17, 1885, to Abbie Amanda Reeves, who was born just east of Pandora, October 4, 1860, and who is the daughter of Finley and Elizabeth (Herron) Reeves. Finley Reeves was born in Tuscarawas county, June 6, 1820. His parents were both natives of Pennsylvania. Finley Reeves and family moved to Putnam county in 1859 and settled in Riley township on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres just east of Pandora. Here he lived until his death in June, 1891. His wife died on February 13, 1879. It was here that Mrs. Hart was born and reared and attended the public schools of Pandora. After leaving the common schools, she attended the Columbus Grove high school, and following this, took a special normal course at the Northern Ohio Normal University, at Ada. Upon finishing this course, she taught school for five years, or until her marriage in 1885.

After his marriage, Christian A. Hart purchased a farm one-half mile north of Pandora. This farm contained seventy-nine acres and here he and his wife lived for nine years. Mr. Hart then sold out and moved to Pandora, where he continued in the live stock business in which he had been engaged

some time previously. He continued in this business seven or eight years and then devoted his attention to the farm and also to his scales at the stock yards, which he had been operating for about twenty-two years.

Mr. and Mrs. Christian A. Hart have been the parents of six children. The first and third children died at birth, the second child, Glenn, died when nine days old, and Grace Elizabeth, who was born on January 20, 1900, died on October 5, 1900. The two living children are Leonard William, born on May 1, 1893, and Walter Reeves, born on August 8, 1895, both of whom are at home.

Mr. Hart is a Republican. He attends the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his wife is a member. Christian A. Hart is one of the prominent, well-known men of Pandora and Riley township, a progressive citizen and a man whose character and reputation are the very highest in the community where he lives.

Reverting to Mr. Hart's father, Samuel L. Hart, it may be said that his father, John Hart, was born in 1809, in eastern Pennsylvania, the son of George and Mary Hart, also natives of Pennsylvania. George Hart came to Ohio and settled in Ashland county, in 1811, when his son John, was two years old. Here George Hart remained the balance of his life, dying in 1850, at the age of seventy years. He owned a farm near Jeromesville, Ashland county. George Hart was the father of seven children, three sons and four daughters. John was the oldest child and spent his youth in Ashland county where he remained until thirty-two years of age, when he was married to Mary Ming, also of Ashland county. To this union nine children were born, three of whom died in infancy, three sons and three daughters lived to maturity. They were, Mary Catherine, Elizabeth Ann, Absalom, Samuel L., John S., and Margaret N. The last two children were born in Putnam county to which place John Hart came in the fall of 1841, when Samuel L., his son, was eighteen months old. He settled in Pleasant township, about three miles southeast of Pleasant Grove and here purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, all of which was covered with timber and unimproved. John Hart proceeded to clear this land and later built a plank house and a frame barn. Here his children grew up and Samuel L. spent his youth and remained until twenty-six years of age.

During the first year of the Civil War, in 1861, John Hart enlisted in the Fifty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served two years. Among other important engagements, he participated in the battles of Pittsburg Landing and the siege of Vicksburg. He served under General Rice from Putnam county. On account of sickness, due to a prevailing camp

disease, he was discharged. He was a very active man and it is related that during a contest among the soldiers who were trying to jump over a mule at the siege of Vicksburg, John Hart was the only man in the brigade able to accomplish the feat. He jumped over the mule to the great delight of his comrades.

After his discharge, he returned home, in 1863, and resumed farming, but three years later his wife died. John Hart was married again, in 1869, to Mrs. Jane (Bogart) Ward. To this union, one child, Jacob Hart, was born. About ten years later, his wife died and he was married a third time to a widow by the name of Minson, but there were no children by this union. After his last marriage, he moved to Columbus Grove, where he lived for a year or two and then moved to a farm two miles south of Columbus Grove. Two years later, he died at the age of seventy-seven years.

After Samuel Hart married, he farmed his father's place for five years. He married Anna Amstutz, February 19, 1861. She was the daughter of Christian and Anna (Burkholder) Amstutz, both pioneer settlers of Putnam county. The three children born to this marriage are: Mary Ann, Christian A. and John S. A little less than five years after his marriage, Mrs. Hart died, February 1, 1866. Just prior to his wife's death, Mr. Hart moved to a farm one and one-half miles north of Pandora. Two or three days later, they were on a visit to the old home place when Samuel Hart's mother died, January 25, 1866, and six days later his wife died. Samuel Hart continued to farm the place north of Pandora, the children having been placed with relatives, and here he farmed for thirty years.

About fourteen months after his first wife's death, he was married to Sarah Kauffman, of Ashland county, Ohio, the daughter of Andrew Kauffman and wife. No children were born to this marriage. His second wife died in 1884 and three years later, on February 6, 1887, he was married, a third time, to Margaret V. Poe, who was born in Putnam county, July 27, 1858, and who was the daughter of James and Nancy (Simpson) Poe. The former was a native of Hancock county and the latter of Putnam county. To this last marriage, one child, Alvin, was born. He resides on the home place and a part of the time at Ottawa.

As has been said heretofore, the Hart family has always been prominent in the community where they live. For several generations, they have been people of industrious habits, frugal, prudent and broadminded. They represent the best blood and sinew of Putnam county and are, therefore, worthy the esteem in which they are held.

## DAVID C. STEINER.

Among the citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, who built up comfortable homes and provided themselves with valuable property, few have attained a greater degree of success than David C. Steiner, of Riley township, one of the most public-spirited citizens of the county. With many discouragements to overcome, he has achieved an exceptional success in life, and has the gratification of knowing that his community has been greatly benefited by his presence and his counsel. He is regarded as a good business man and a man who is possessed of sound judgment and foresight, who believes in pressing forward and in keeping the wheels of the car of civilization ever moving onward. He enjoys the respect and esteem of all who know him, and as a consequence of his business ability and his interest in public affairs, he is regarded by all as one of the substantial and worthy citizens of Putnam county.

David C. Steiner was born in Riley township, September 16, 1860, the son of Christian and Magdalene (Lugibihl) Steiner. Christian Steiner was born in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio, January 25, 1838, the son of Peter and Barbara (Schuhmacher) Steiner. Peter Steiner was born in Alsace, in 1810, and was the son of a farmer. He married Barbara Schuhmacher, a native of Basel, Switzerland, in 1835. She was born in 1811. Soon after their marriage they came to America, and were forty days in making the voyage across the ocean. They settled two and one-half miles west of Bluffton, in Richland township, Allen county. At that time the country was in a virgin state, being covered with timber. They passed through all of the pioneer experiences. He died at the age of sixty, in 1870, and nineteen years later his wife died at the age of seventy-eight. They were the parents of four sons and seven daughters, three of whom still survive. The present living children are: Christian, Elizabeth and Peter P.

Christian Steiner, the father of David C. Steiner, spent his boyhood on the old homestead in Richland township, Allen county. Here he attended the typical log cabin school house as a boy and young man. He helped his father clear the land and also helped to make the brick with which to build their residence, which stands today. At the age of twenty-one, he was married on November 23, 1859, to Magdalene Lugibihl, who was born on December 23, 1840, in Riley township, Putnam county. She is the daughter of Christian and Barbara (Hilty) Lugibihl. Christian Lugibihl was born in Alsace, November 21, 1809, and as a child came with his parents to America.

and settled in Ohio. He was married, in 1838, to Barbara Hilty, who was born in Berne, Switzerland, April, 1814. After their marriage they removed to Riley township in Putnam county, settling two and one-half miles east of Pandora. Barbara (Hilty) Lugibihl died at the age of thirty-seven, in 1853. She was the mother of ten children. Her husband died two and one-half years later, in 1855. After his marriage, Christian Steiner located on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres one mile east of Pendleton on the Ridge road. Only a few acres of this farm were cleared and it had a one-roomed log cabin in which David C. Steiner was born. His father proceeded to clear the land and also engaged in the saw-mill business for several years, in conjunction with three neighbors. A part of this work was keeping the books for this enterprise. Christian Steiner has always been a very successful farmer and has always been an extensive feeder of cattle and hogs and, during recent years, has specialized in Polled Durham cattle. He is a Democrat, and served as district clerk and was a member of the school board for several years. He has acted as an administrator and executor of many estates. He is a member of the Grace Mennonite church, of which he has been a liberal supporter. When the St. John's was built, he was a member of the building committee. Mr. Steiner is a public-spirited citizen, of clean character and sterling integrity. He and his wife have been the parents of eleven children, six sons and five daughters, David C., Samuel C., Susan, deceased; Gideon C., Elizabeth, Peter C., Elias, Barbara, Christian, Sarah, who died at the age of two years, and Mary.

David C. Steiner was born on the old homestead and there grew to manhood. He attended the district schools and the Northwestern Ohio University, at Ada, for five terms, after which he taught school for five years. He was considered one the successful teachers in this township.

When Mr. Steiner was twenty-six years old, he was married on March 10, 1887, to Barbara Welty, who was born, on January 15, 1866, in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio. She is the daughter of Frederick and Catherine (Steiner) Welty, the former a native of Berne, Switzerland, and the son of John and Christina (Gerber) Welty. Frederick Welty came to America in 1856, at the age of twenty-five, with his parents, and settled in Richland township, Allen county. He was born on February 6, 1831. He was married on September 4, 1856, to Catherine Steiner, the daughter of John F. and Barbara (Habegger) Steiner, both of whom were natives of Switzerland. They came to America in an early day, when Catherine was only two years old, and settled in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio.

After his marriage, David C. Steiner settled on the Markley farm of eighty acres, three miles east of Pandora, where he has lived ever since. He was always engaged in general farming and has been successful in this vocation.

Mr. and Mrs. David C. Steiner have eleven children, three of whom are deceased, Elma Delia, the wife of Doctor Nicewander, of Bluffton, Ohio, who has one daughter, Eleanor; Lennis Gilbert, who married Hulda Schuhmacher and lives in Pandora; Hulda Viola, who died at the age of two years; Homer Arthur, who died at the age of one year; Frances Ellen, who died at the age of one month; Elvina Ruth, who is a student in high school; Susie Amelia, who is also a student in high school; Edith Gertrude, Lillian Grace, Wilma Catherine and Marguerite Madeline, all of whom are students in the graded school.

Mr. Steiner is a Democrat. He is a member of the Grace Mennonite church, while his wife is affiliated with the Missionary church. David C. Steiner is a clean-cut, progressive farmer and citizen. He owns a beautiful farm, on which he has erected a modern house. He is a man who is well respected and is possessed of high ideals, a worthy example to young men who are hesitating at the beginning of their careers as to what course they will follow.

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#### ARCHIE A. SLAYBAUGH.

The whole career of Archie A. Slaybaugh, covering a little more than two score years, has been spent in Putnam county, Ohio. When only sixteen years of age, he began to teach school, and after two years' service as a teacher, he began the study of law, and since his admission to the bar, in the fall of 1896, he has been actively engaged in the practice of his profession. He has held various official positions and is now prosecuting attorney of Putnam county, a position to which he was elected in the fall of 1912.

Archie A. Slaybaugh, the son of Thomas C. and Emma J. (Miller) Slaybaugh, was born on September 2, 1874, at West Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio. Both of his parents were born in Pennsylvania, his father being a son of John Slaybaugh and wife, who came from Pennsylvania, to Shelby county, Ohio, early in its history. Emma J. Miller, the mother of Mr. Slaybaugh, came to Gilboa, in Putnam county, with her parents when she was five years of age. Her father, David Miller, was a tanner for many





ARCHIE A. SLAYBAUGH.



years, and spent his declining years in West Leipsic, where his death occurred.

Thomas C. Slaybaugh was a soldier in Company B, Benton Cadets, a Missouri regiment, and was at the front for nearly three years. After the expiration of his first term of enlistment, he re-enlisted in another company and served until the close of the war. He was twice married, his first wife dying in Shelby county a short time before he located in Putnam county, in 1872. There was one daughter, Mrs. Lizzie Henderson, born to this first marriage, and she is now living in Rossford, Ohio, where her husband is the chief engineer of the Ford plate glass works. By his second marriage, with Emma J. Miller, there were born three children, A. A., of Leipsic; Mrs. Lola Rehfeldt, of Toledo, Ohio, and Wiley A., of Toledo. Thomas C. Slaybaugh was a carpenter by trade. Later he became a finished of D handles, and, in 1880, went to Edgerton, Ohio, where he worked for four years. He moved back to West Leipsic in 1884, and lived there until August, 1913. His wife died on September 30, 1909, and he is now living at Toledo with his daughter, Mrs. Rehfeldt.

Archie A. Slaybaugh was reared at West Leipsic and attended the normal school at that place when it was under the charge of I. L. Harmon. When only sixteen years of age he secured a teacher's license and taught for two years in this county, teaching his first term at Miller City, in 1891. He began reading law with T. W. Prentiss, of Leipsic, in June, 1893, and in October, 1896, was admitted to the Putnam county bar. He has since been in the active practice of his profession at Leipsic. He is active in the councils of the Democratic party, and from 1900 to 1902, was mayor of Leipsic. He was solicitor of the village from 1902 to 1912, and on January 1, 1914, again took charge of the same office. He was a member of the board of education from January 1, 1910, to January 1, 1913, when he resigned to take his present office as prosecuting attorney of Putnam county, to which he had been elected in November of the preceding year. He is now discharging the duties of prosecuting attorney in a manner that shows he has a firm grasp of the law, as well as those qualities of good judgment and impartiality which should characterize the successful prosecutor.

Mr. Slaybaugh was married on June 9, 1901, to Emily Bradley, who was born at Kalida, this county, and is a daughter of Patterson and Emily (Turpening) Bradley. Her father, now deceased, was a farmer in early life and later was a dealer in horses. He was of Irish parentage and was a soldier in the Civil War, coming to Putnam county and locating at Kalida

after its close, where he spent the rest of his days. Mr. and Mrs. Slaybaugh have two children, Gordon Maxwell and Helen Louise. The family are members of the Church of Christ at Leipsic, while fraternally, Mr. Slaybaugh is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias.

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### THOMAS JEFFERSON BAKER.

A prosperous farmer of Van Buren township, Putnam county, Ohio, is Thomas Jefferson Baker, where he has been a resident for many years. Mr. Baker has met with many discouragements in his life, yet despite the many obstacles which he has met along life's pathway, he has maintained a cheerful spirit. He has made several trips to California, where he has always succeeded in recouping his losses in Putnam county, in various ways. He and his wife have reared a family of children and have given them all excellent educations.

Thomas J. Baker, the son of George Adam and Margaret (Weeks) Baker, was born near Van Buren, Hancock county, Ohio, August 27, 1847. His father was born in 1822, in Fairfield county, Ohio, a son of Charles Baker and wife. Charles Baker was a native of Ohio and moved from Fairfield to Hancock county in its early history and entered government land, on which he lived until his death. Charles Baker owned three hundred and sixty acres of land, at the time of his death, and each of his five children received sixty acres from their father's estate. Charles Baker and wife reared five children, Hannah, the wife of Samuel Koggy; George Adam, the father of Thomas J. Baker; Solomon, Betsy, the wife of Steven Warner, and one daughter who died in infancy.

Charles Baker lost his first wife when the children were very young and he later married, but only lived nine months after his second marriage, leaving his children orphans. At that time, George Adam Baker was only nine years of age and he, and the rest of the children, were bound out until they should become of age. George went to live with a German family in Fairfield county, and in this way learned to speak German. He was taught the plasterer's trade and when a young man of nineteen, married Margaret Weeks, of Fairfield county. She was the daughter of Nathan and Barbara (Corfman) Weeks, and was born in 1822, and died on September 5, 1913, at the age of ninety-one.

George Adam Baker and wife were the parents of twelve children,

Hannah, who first married Cephus Gribble, and had five children, and after her first husband's death, married Willis Decker, and had one child by her second marriage; Solomon, who married Amanda Lehr, and had six children; Nathan, who married Fromy Miller; Thomas J., with whom this narrative deals; Almeda, the wife of Steward Skinner, and the mother of four children; Benjamin, who married Seena Busong, and has two children, one deceased; George, who married Mary Warner, and has five children; Malissa, who married John Overholt, and had two children, one dying in infancy; Elmira, deceased, who was the wife of Louis Roberts, deceased, and the mother of two children; Ella, the wife of Ernest Newman, and the mother of one child, who died in infancy; Clemmie, who married Kate Kisel, and has nine children; William, deceased.

George Adam Baker moved back to Hancock county, after his marriage, and located on the old home place near Van Buren. He had sixty acres which he inherited from his father's estate, after which he bought the share of property belonging to his brother, Solomon, which gave him a farm of one hundred and twenty acres. On this he lived the remainder of his life, dying at the age of forty-seven, in 1869. He was a man highly esteemed in his community and was always concerned in every movement which promised to better the locality in which he lived.

Thomas J. Baker was educated in the common schools of his boyhood days and helped his father on the old homestead farm, in Hancock county, until he was about twenty-three years of age. He then took a trip to California, where he worked on a ranch and served as a "Buck Ayr." He remained in California a year and then returned to his home in Hancock county, where he worked out by the month until he was twenty-nine years of age. He then married, and immediately after his marriage, moved to Van Buren township, Putnam county, Ohio, and located on an eighty-acre farm four miles east of Leipsic. He had bought this farm prior to his marriage, and at the time he moved upon it, there was only twelve acres cleared. He struggled along on the farm for two or three years, but not being able to make much money, he decided to go "out West," where he felt that he could get good wages. He left his little family with his wife's parents and went to California, where he again worked for the same man who had employed him on his first trip to that state. He made good wages and returned home with nearly enough money to pay for his farm. He remained on the farm for several years, but his house burning down, caused him a loss of sixteen hundred dollars. Again he decided that he would go to California and try to make enough money to pay off his debt

and build a new home. He made the trip the third time and was again successful and returned with enough money to start in life anew under favorable circumstances, and he has since made his home on the farm, and, in addition to general farming, he has been very successful in raising fruit and poultry. He is an extensive poultry raiser and derives no small part of his income from the sale of this product.

A very interesting story is apropos at this point. It seems that when George Adam Baker, father of Thomas J., came to Ohio, that they had no chickens, so they bought a hen and chickens from a neighbor. When these chickens became large enough to crow, it seemed that they did not know how. An Irish friend explained that the reason why they did not crow, was because they did not know how. There were no other roosters in the neighborhood and the young cockerels had never heard one of their kind crow. The Irishman volunteered to teach them this art, and each morning he went out early, clapped his hands, hopped on top of a chicken coop and crowed. Strange as it may seem, the Irishman taught the young roosters how to crow, and thus the chicken industry started in the Baker family.

Mr. Baker married Jennie Walker, a daughter of Abraham and Mary Walker. She was born in Wood county, Ohio, July 25, 1851, and died April 1, 1908. Her parents were natives of New Jersey. To this union five children have been born, Nathan, who is a resident of Phoenix, Arizona; Alva A., who married Loua Eastman, and lives at Carmangay, Alberta, Canada; William B., who married Lulu Pendleton, farming the home farm; Ira E., who married Nona Pendleton, and makes his home in Cleveland, Ohio; Charles E., married Miss Alta Ginder.

Mr. Baker is a Democrat in politics, but has never been active in the councils of his party. He has taken a great interest in the education of his children, and has seen them all receive excellent training in the public and normal schools, as well as the universities of Ohio and Indiana. After graduating from the Leipsic high school, Alva later attended the Tri-State College at Angola, Indiana. Nathan was a student in the Ohio State University at Columbus. Ira graduated from the Ottawa Business College, while Charles E. is a graduate in music. Mrs. Baker was a member of the Evangelical church, while Mr. Baker is affiliated with the United Brethren denomination. Mr. Baker is a man of genial impulses, kindly disposition and highly esteemed in the neighborhood where he has made his home so many years.

## CLEMENT C. RIMER.

Clement C. Rimer, for many years, has been closely identified with the history of Putnam county, Ohio. He is one of the brilliant young attorneys of Columbus Grove, and, throughout his life, has been active in behalf of all worthy public enterprises. He has already achieved a splendid measure of professional success, his years of conscientious work as a lawyer having brought him increasing practice and reputation. By a straightforward, honorable course, Mr. Rimer has built up a large and lucrative legal business. His life is a splendid example of what an American youth, endowed with common sense, energy and determination, can accomplish. He has achieved a splendid record at the bar at an age when most men are merely starting on their life work. He has been intensely methodical and unswervingly persistent in search of legal essentials. Success could not help crowning his efforts and attracting to him public recognition and appreciation.

Clement C. Rimer was born on December 12, 1874, about one mile southwest of Columbus Grove, Pleasant township. He is a son of James and Lucinda (Nichols) Rimer. James Rimer was born on April 13, 1845, about three-quarters of a mile northwest of Kalida, in Union township. He, in turn, is the son of Jeremiah R. and Lucinda (Sarber) Rimer.

It is an interesting fact that the first court held in Putnam county was held at the home of Abram Sarber, a great uncle of Clement C. Rimer. Here the organization was perfected for erecting the first Putnam county court house, at Kalida. Abram Sarber was also the first township clerk in Putnam county. A brother, Adam Sarber, was one of the three first township trustees in this county.

Jeremiah Rimer, the grandfather of Clement C. Rimer, was a native of Fairfield county, Ohio, born on January 23, 1820. He was the son of Daniel and Catherine (Vandemarke) Rimer, the former of whom was born on September 11, 1789, in Pennsylvania, and the latter of whom was a native of Pennsylvania, born there on September 13, 1785. Jeremiah Rimer came to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1832, with his parents, who settled on a farm in Union township. He was a life-long farmer. Jeremiah was twice married, first to Lucinda Sarber, September 19, 1841. She was a native of Franklin county, Ohio, born there on November 25, 1819, and a daughter of Adam and Catherine (Ensden) Sarber. Her parents settled in Putnam county in 1834. Two children were born by this marriage, Catherine and James. His wife died on April 26, 1845, when her son James was only

thirteen days old. Jeremiah Rimer was again married on November 5, 1846, to Eliza Jane, the daughter of James and Millison (Watson) Cunningham. Seven children were born by this marriage, Albert was born on May 10, 1848, and served five months in the Civil War, in the One Hundred and Ninety-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry; William was born on December 2, 1850; John M. was born on October 9, 1852; Minor D. was born on August 6, 1855; Lucinda J. was born on August 31, 1857; Thomas C. was born on May 8, 1860, and Mary M. was born in January, 1867.

Shortly after his second marriage, Jeremiah came to Columbus Grove, Ohio, and lived here two years when he again moved to a farm in Sugar Creek township. He farmed this until 1876, when he sold it and purchased a forty-acre tract in Pleasant township, where he farmed for some time. Subsequently, he sold out and moved back to Columbus Grove, where he spent his remaining days. Jeremiah was a Democrat and, although not active, was called upon to serve as trustee of Sugar Creek township for two terms. He was also infirmity director for several years and a member of the school board. In his earlier days, he was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Ottawa, Ohio. He was a deacon and active at the time of his death in the New School Baptist church. He died on February 2, 1894.

James Rimer, the father of Clement C., spent his boyhood days on the homestead farm in Sugar Creek township. He left home in 1864 to learn the carpenter trade at Columbus Grove. Aside from one year spent at his trade at Bellefontaine, Ohio, he has been actively engaged in his trade at Columbus Grove since that time. He was married on November 23, 1865, to Lucinda Nichols, daughter of Edward and Margaret (Erwin) Nichols. Edward Nichols was born in Licking County, Ohio, July 4, 1824, and was a life-long farmer. He came to Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, with his parents, when he was twelve years old. He died on May 3, 1863, at the age of thirty-nine. His wife, Margaret (Erwin) Nichols, was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, February 17, 1818, and died on the homestead farm in Union township on October 2, 1893, at the age of seventy-five. Edward Nichols and wife had ten children: Mrs. Martha Holt, of Columbus Grove; Lucinda, who was born in Pleasant township, October 8, 1846, and who spent her childhood days in Union township; Joseph lives in Paulding county; Mrs. Anna Best lives in Union township; Amos also lives in Union township; Mrs. Hetty Martin lives at Dundee, Michigan; the seventh child died in infancy; Mrs. Jane Anderson lives at Marion, Indiana;



Mrs. Hannah Spratt lives in Wood county, Ohio; Edward died at the age of four years.

To Mr. and Mrs. James Rimer five children have been born. One died in infancy; Mrs. Louis Miller lives in Columbus Grove; Mrs. John Davis lives at Lima, Ohio; Clement C. is the subject of this sketch; Emory lives at Whitehouse, Ohio.

James Rimer is considered a master mechanic at his trade. He has erected many edifices in Putnam county which are still standing as an evidence of his good work. Previous to his coming to Columbus Grove in 1895, he farmed a small tract in Union township, but followed his present trade, likewise. He owns property in Columbus Grove and is still active as a carpenter. He is a member of Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge No. 464, at Columbus Grove. He served six years as trustee of Union township, from 1889 to 1895. For several years he was a school director and was for one term a member of the town council. He is not active in politics at this time. He is a member of the Presbyterian church where he is an active elder. For many years he was a trustee of the church, but he has not been active for the past six years. All the family are Presbyterians.

Clement C. Rimer spent his boyhood days in Columbus Grove and on the homestead farm. He was educated in the township schools and in the Columbus Grove high school. He spent one year, 1892-1893, at Ada College and taught school in the township for three years after leaving Ada, attending the summer terms there while teaching. He began reading law under W. C. Tingle and completed the study in the law offices of S. Sanders, of Columbus Grove. Mr. Rimer was admitted to the bar in June, 1902, and immediately opened a law office at Columbus Grove, where he is now active and where he is one of the leading attorneys of the town. He became solicitor of the village, after passing the bar examination, and holds this office at the present time. He was elected justice of the peace, at the age of twenty-one, and served six years. He was also township clerk for about eight years and filled both offices with credit to himself and to the township and the town. He is now legal adviser to the school board and holds other important positions of responsibility.

Mr. Rimer was married on June 24, 1897, to Miss Ida Swanger, daughter of John and Leah (Kissell) Swanger. To this union three children have been born, Gladys, Helen and Ruth, who are all at home.

Mr. Rimer has always been an active Democrat. He took a strenuous part during Bryan's first campaign, having been called upon to take the stump for that distinguished politician at the age of twenty-one years. He has

been a vital factor in all the campaigns since that time and has always responded to his party's call, working hard for victory. He has stumped Putnam and other counties, having been sent out by the state committee.

Mr. Rimer is a member of the Knights of Pythias, though not active at the present time. He and his family are members of the Presbyterian church. Clement C. Rimer is a pleasing young man with a quiet, unassuming manner, frank in all his business dealings and a man well liked in the community for his tenacity of purpose and high ideals.

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### JOHN DONALDSON.

Among the prosperous farmers of Putnam county who have built up comfortable homes and surrounded themselves with the comforts of life, none has attained a higher degree of success than John Donaldson, of Monroe township, Putnam county. With few opportunities, except what his own efforts and those of his wife were capable of mastering, and with many difficulties to overcome, he has made a success of life, and in so doing has earned the universal respect and esteem of all with whom he has come in contact. He is a man of tireless energy and strong courage, and a man whose career shows that he is an able and conscientious worker. As a citizen, he has been public-spirited and enterprising to an exceptional degree; as a friend and neighbor, he has combined those qualities of head and heart which have won confidence and commanded respect. His life is a splendid example of what an American youth, plentifully endowed with common sense and determination, can accomplish.

John Donaldson was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, August 20, 1850, the son of Aaron and Sarah A. (Swayze) Donaldson, the former of whom was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1810, and the latter born in the same county, December 20, 1827. Aaron Donaldson was the son of John Donaldson, who was born in Maryland, in 1784, and who came with his father to Ohio, about 1805. John Donaldson married Mary Grubb, in 1809. He was a captain in the War of 1812, a Democrat in politics, and, for twenty-one years, a justice of the peace in his township. He died at the age of sixty-four years. His wife was born in 1790, and died at the age of eighty-two.

The children of John and Mary Donaldson were as follow: Aaron, Elizabeth, Letta, Sarah, Mary, Serena, John, Thirza, Cantha, Malinda,



MR. AND MRS. JOHN DONALDSON.



Lavina, Jacob, William and Henry. The children of Aaron and Sarah A. Donaldson were Owen, born on June 22, 1849, who lives at Dupont, Ohio; John, the subject of this sketch; Rosalie, born on October 4, 1852, married a Mr. Shiver and lives in Monroe township; Aaron, born on December 13, 1854, died in 1910; Jacob S., born on January 31, 1857, lives in Michigan; Hester Ann, born on June 17, 1859, deceased; Ira, born on May 30, 1861, who is a farmer in Monroe township; Asa, born on September 26, 1863, who lives in Continental, where he is a rural mail carrier and owns a farm in Monroe township; William, born on March 14, 1866, who lives on a farm in Greensburg township.

John Donaldson was reared on the farm and educated in the public schools of Ohio. Early in life, he learned the carpenter's trade, although he never devoted much time or attention to his skill in this direction, except to erect his own buildings and what assistance he gave the neighbors when needed.

Mr. Donaldson was married on October 27, 1872, to Mary A. Wood, born on July 1, 1850, in Perry county, Ohio, and the daughter of Joseph and Margaret (Yarger) Wood. The parents of Mrs. Donaldson were married in Perry county, where Joseph Wood was a farmer. The Wood family removed to Putnam county in 1862, and became prominently identified with the agricultural interests of this section of the state of Ohio. Joseph Wood was a Jacksonian Democrat.

Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. John Donaldson, Chester H., a rural mail carrier, of Continental, Ohio, who married Belle McKibbens, and has three children, Madge, Beatrice and Ruth; Cora M., who married William Moorehead, a farmer of Monroe township, and has two children, Paul and Erma; Alma L., who married Delbert Rockey, a farmer of Monroe township, and has one child, Ray; Harvey C., a farmer of Monroe township, who married Gertrude Hall and has four children, Zola, deceased; Dathia, Walter and Gale; Lillie B., deceased; Mary A., who married Mallie Daub and has one daughter, Maxine; and Lester, who is deceased.

Mr. Donaldson's father, Aaron Donaldson, died on September 24, 1880, and his mother, who was born on December 20, 1827, died in the spring of 1911, at the age of eighty-four years.

John Donaldson has been identified with the agricultural interests of Monroe township for many years. He has lived upon the farm, which he now occupies, practically the entire time since his marriage. The farm originally comprised eighty acres, but Mr. Donaldson has added forty acres

more to this farm, four acres being consumed in railroad property. His son, Harvy C., now lives upon the farm of eighty acres, went in partnership with his father, and has built a new home, which is one of the finest in the township. Much of Mr. Donaldson's land has been cleared, drained and improved by his own efforts. He is a good farmer and bears an exceptional reputation throughout Monroe township, where he is so well known.

Mr. Donaldson was formerly a Democrat of the Jacksonian type, and has always taken an active interest in political matters. He has been a staunch member of the Socialist party since 1900. Mr. Donaldson has attended the Christian church and contributes to the support of this church. He was formerly a member of the Grange, but this organization is no longer in existence. Not only is John Donaldson a good farmer, but he is a man esteemed for his upright character. He is a lover of his home, a kind father, frugal and saving in his habits, yet, progressive in all of his ideas.

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### WILLIAM N. CURTIS.

It is a well-recognized fact that the most powerful influence in shaping and controlling public life is the press. It reaches a greater number of people than any other agency, and thus has always been, and, in the hands of persons competent to direct it, always will be a most important factor in molding public opinion and in shaping the destiny of the nation. The gentleman, to a brief review of whose life these lines are devoted, is commonly connected with the journalism of Putnam county, and at this time is the editor and publisher of the *Kalida Record*, at Kalida, Ohio, one of the most popular papers of Putnam county, comparing favorably with the best local newspapers in this section of the state in news, editorial ability and mechanical execution.

William N. Curtis, the editor of the *Kalida Record*, was born on May 11, 1872, in Le Roy, New York. He is the son of Horace and Catherine (Taaffe) Curtis, both of whom are natives of New York state.

Horace Curtis was engaged in the lumber business at Le Roy with his brother Stephen, and established one of the first packing houses in New York state, in conjunction with the lumber industry. They also dealt extensively in hides. Horace Curtis lived in Le Roy until his death. His widow still lives there with two daughters, Mildred and Beatrice.

William N. Curtis was educated in the public schools of Le Roy. At

the age of fifteen he was apprenticed as a printer. After learning this trade, he worked at various places. He came to Kalida in 1910, and purchased the *Kalida Record*, which he has developed into one of the most substantial and authoritative weeklies in Putnam county. It is independent in politics and stands fearlessly for the best interests of the community. Its circulation has grown very much under the management of Mr. Curtis.

William W. Curtis was married in December, 1892, to Daisy M. Tompkins, of Pavilion, New York. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Tompkins, of that place. W. H. Tompkins is a prominent farmer and merchant of Pavilion. To this happy marriage one child, Carl, has been born, in 1895. He has also learned the printer's trade and works for his father. He confines his attention to the reportorial end of the newspaper.

Mr. Curtis does a big job printing business and also does printing for many theatrical and show companies, which has earned for him the title of "Curtis, the Show Printer." Likewise Mr. Curtis is referred to as "Curtis, the Square Deal Printer."

Since coming to Putnam county, and establishing himself in business at Kalida, Mr. Curtis has built up an enviable reputation in this community. He is honored and respected by all of the citizens and thoroughly merits their esteem.

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#### HARRY L. HOFFMAN.

Among the younger business men of Leipsic, is Harry L. Hoffman, the popular proprietor of a model drug store, who has a well-established reputation for integrity and square dealing, and who displays business acumen to a marked degree. He has already made a success of life, and the future promises to be very bright for this young man.

Mr. Hoffman was born on October 25, 1886, in Bluffton, Allen county, Ohio, and is the son of Thomas J. and Emma (Ludwig) Hoffman, who are the parents of the following seven children: Harry L., Mrs. Callie Crawfis, of Leipsic; Clara, at home; May, at home; Frank teaches school at Bradner, Ohio; Clarence is a clerk in the Leipsic postoffice, and Charles lives at home.

A native of Burwick, Seneca county, Ohio, Thomas J. Hoffman was born on January 26, 1852, the son of George W. and Lydia (Anderson) Hoffman, the former of whom was born in Fredericktown, Maryland, in 1820, and died in 1894. The latter was born in Wyandot county, Ohio, and died in 1860. George W. Hoffman came with his parents to Seneca

county, Ohio, when he was eight years of age, and settled in Putnam county on January 1, 1864. He was a farmer and fruit grower, who found success, as a result of hard work. His son, Thomas, was educated in the common schools of Leipsic and, in 1871, began clerking for S. Young, continuing so for nine years. Two more years he clerked and then entered the general insurance business, which he followed for about three years, at the same time selling sewing machines. At the end of this period he entered the poultry business and became manager of the West Leipsic Poultry Company, which position he retained for twelve years. During the last few years he has been engaged in the buying, selling, and shipping of poultry.

Thomas Hoffman is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and, in politics, he is an active Democrat, having been appointed a justice of the peace, a member of the school board, and presiding judge on the election board. He is a progressive, enterprising man who holds an enviable position in his community.

The mother of Harry L. Hoffman is a native of Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, and was born on September 12, 1857, the daughter of John Ludwig, a native of Bluffton, Ohio. Emma Ludwig came to Bluffton when she was one year old. Her father was a successful farmer, and he died at the ripe age of eighty years at the home of his son-in-law, Thomas Hoffman.

The boyhood days of Harry Hoffman were spent in Putnam county. He graduated from the Leipsic high school in 1904, and in 1909 he graduated from the Ada College of Pharmacy. Mr. Hoffman passed the examination of the Ohio state board of pharmacy in 1910, and became a registered pharmacist, after which time he traveled as salesman for one year, for the Toledo Pharmacal Company. Then he came to Leipsic and bought of the Hickman brothers the drug store known as the D. S. Schweister stand. Mr. Hoffman carries a full line of drugs, stationery and sundries, and well deserves the liberal patronage which is accorded him.

Mr. Hoffman married Ethel Johnson, of Xenia, Greene county, Ohio, on October 4, 1911, and to the union one child has been born, Ellenore.

In his fraternal life, Mr. Hoffman is a member of the Knights of Pythias, affiliating with the Leipsic lodge. His college fraternity was Theta Nu Epsilon, and he belonged to the Omicon-Omicon chapter of Ada, Ohio. As do the others of his family, Mr. Hoffman belongs to the Methodist Evangelical church. With splendid ideals, an active and receptive mind, and with a full understanding of his business, Mr. Hoffman stands as a very creditable representative of the newer element in American business. Mr. Hoffman's winning personality has won him a host of friends, who fully appreciate the sterling virtues which are embodied in him.



## WILLIAM BORGELT.

The gentleman of whom the biographer now writes is widely known and one of the honored citizens of Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio. For more than half a century he has lived in this county and has been a valued factor in the development of the same, and prominently identified with the various interests of his community. His well-directed energies, in the practical affairs of life, his capable management of his own business interests, and his sound judgment, have demonstrated what may be accomplished by the man of energy and ambition, who, persevering often in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles, proves that he is the possessor of those qualities which never fail to bring success, if properly directed. Mr. Borgelt is, in every respect, a representative citizen of Pleasant township.

William Borgelt was born on March 4, 1861, in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of William and Tracy (Slater) Borgelt. A complete parental history of Mr. Borgelt appears elsewhere in this volume in the life history of Herman Borgelt, a brother of William.

William Borgelt spent his boyhood days on the home farm in Ottawa township, Putnam county, just north of his present farm. He was educated in the public schools of this township and assisted his father on the farm until his marriage.

Mr. Borgelt was married in November, 1887, to Mary Nartker, the daughter of Ferdinand and Mary (Feltman) Nartker. To this happy union, two children, Fred and Albert, have been born, both of whom are at home.

Two years after Mr. Borgelt's marriage, he removed to his present farm. He first purchased twenty acres, all green and brush land. This land was cleared and ditched and many improvements were made upon it. Mr. Borgelt built his present residence and barn in 1905. He has a fine large barn and a modern home, all of which makes an ideal country place. Mr. Borgelt has added one hundred and eighty-five acres to his original twenty acres and is now farming two hundred and five acres, one hundred and twenty-five acres of which lies across the road in Union township. Eighty acres are in Pleasant township and here the buildings are situated.

Mr. Borgelt is a member of the Knights of Columbus, at Ottawa, Ohio. He is a member of the Glandorf Catholic church as is also his family. They are devout members of this church and contribute liberally to its support. Mr. Borgelt is a stanch Democrat, although he has never been active in the councils of his party and has never held office. He is a plain, good-natured man, a lover of his home and family and a hard worker.

He takes a great interest in his farm and stands high in the community as a progressive and enterprising citizen. He belongs to the great Germanic race which has given so many substantial citizens to this country, and especially to Putnam county, Ohio. Mr. Borgelt is possessed of all the good traits of this great race.

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### HIRAM M. SUMMERS.

Among those men of high personal attainment and exalted character who have reflected honor on Putnam county, and at the same time have attained a commendable position among their fellow men is Hiram M. Summers, a well-known lawyer and abstractor of Ottawa, Ohio. Hiram M. Summers is a man, who, in every walk of life, has performed his full part. He has given his unreserved support to every movement in behalf of the welfare of the public and his daily life has been such as to earn the confidence and goodwill of his neighbors and fellow-townsmen. Mr. Summers has filled a large place in the ranks of active, energetic and public-spirited citizens of his day and generation.

Hiram M. Summers was born on April 26, 1865, at Kalida. He is the son of William Patrick and Mary (Martin) Summers, referred to later in this sketch.

Hiram M. Summers grew up at Kalida, where he attended the normal school and where he received a splendid education. Subsequently, he taught school for nine years, eight years in Union township and one year at Continental, where he had charge of the schools. He next came to Ottawa, the county seat of Putnam county, and was for a time employed as a salesman in a clothing store. During this period he read law in the office of Krauss & Eastman and, on June 13, 1901, Mr. Summers was admitted to the Putnam county bar. Before that time, however, he made an abstract of titles of the real estate of Putnam county and engaged in this business in connection with the law. He has been in the real estate and ~~ice~~ business and now practices law. He makes abstracts of title and has built up a large and lucrative business in Putnam county especially. He has been for seven years a member of the school board of Ottawa and at the present time is vice-president of the same.

• On August 25, 1889, Mr. Summers was married to Clara Matheney, who was born at Kalida, and who is the daughter of Samuel and Adelia (Rogers) Matheney. Mrs. Summers' parents became pioneer settlers at

Kalida in an early day. Her father was a farmer and stock dealer at Kalida for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Summers have five children, Verner is at Akron where he is a bookkeeper. He married a Miss Austegen; Gladys was married on August 25, 1914, to Stewart S. Robinalt, a druggist of Ottawa; William lives at Ottawa. He graduated from Ottawa high school and, subsequently, attended business college. He is employed in the drug store with his brother-in-law, Stewart S. Robinalt. Clara and Helen are at home.

Mr. Summers is a Democrat. During all his life he has been influential in the councils of that party. He is a member of the county central committee and the county executive committee of his party, and was mayor of Ottawa for seven years, 1900 to 1907. Mr. Summers has also served in the Ottawa council and held other minor positions. He owns a considerable amount of farm land, a part of which is in Riley township and part of which is in Hancock county. Mr. Summers is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons. He was the master of the Ottawa lodge for two years.

William Patrick Summers, the father of Hiram M., was born in County Clare, Ireland, and was the son of Thomas and Katherine (Cotter) Summers, the former a native of County Clare and the latter a native of County Limerick, born on April 5, 1824. He was a contractor. William Patrick Summers was educated in Ireland and was sent to school to learn Gaelic, which he mastered. He attended the private and also the great national school. At the age of fifteen, he ran away to sea and shipped from Limerick as an apprentice on the "Barbara Allen." He made a voyage in the Mediterranean and followed the sea for fourteen years, off and on. He visited almost every country on the globe. While in the Mediterranean sea the ship upon which he was making the voyage, stuck in the sands on the coast of Greece and was rescued by a Turkish man of war. While in New York, in 1849, William Patrick Summers sailed for California by way of the Horn. They were six months in making the voyage. They landed in San Francisco late in the year 1849. He remained there for six years and, in 1852, went to Australia. He was engaged in mining gold in that country for four years, when he returned to California. About this time he joined the Masons, at Mud Springs, California. After he had remained for some time in that state. He re-embarked and again sailed around the Horn, shipping as third officer of the vessel. On this trip he was injured. Finally, they landed at Norfolk, Virginia, when Mr. Summers went to Ireland and visited his old home. After remaining there for fifteen days, he

returned to the United States, and settled in Sandusky city. He was married in Ireland and, on his return to America, his wife returned with him. They settled in Wyandotte county, and, after living there for some time, and also in Seneca county, they removed to Putnam county, settling in Kalida, where he became a ditch contractor.

William Patrick Summers was deputy sheriff of Putnam county for six years, postmaster of Kalida for four and one-half years, and township clerk for eight years. He was also street commissioner and constable. The children of William Patrick Summers and wife are as follow: Kate and John, who are deceased; William, also deceased; the others are Ellen, Hiram, Ann, Katherine and Margaret. John married Rose Clevenger. He died in Putnam county; Ellen married George Powell, who is a school teacher at Continental; Anna married Wes Claypool, of Kalida; Katherine married Frank Edelbrock and they lived in Jackson township; Margaret is principal of the Gomer school; Michael, Thomas and John, brothers of William Patrick Summers, live at Delphos.

Mr. Summers is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and is past master of the blue lodge at Kalida. He was first master of the Masonic lodge at Continental.

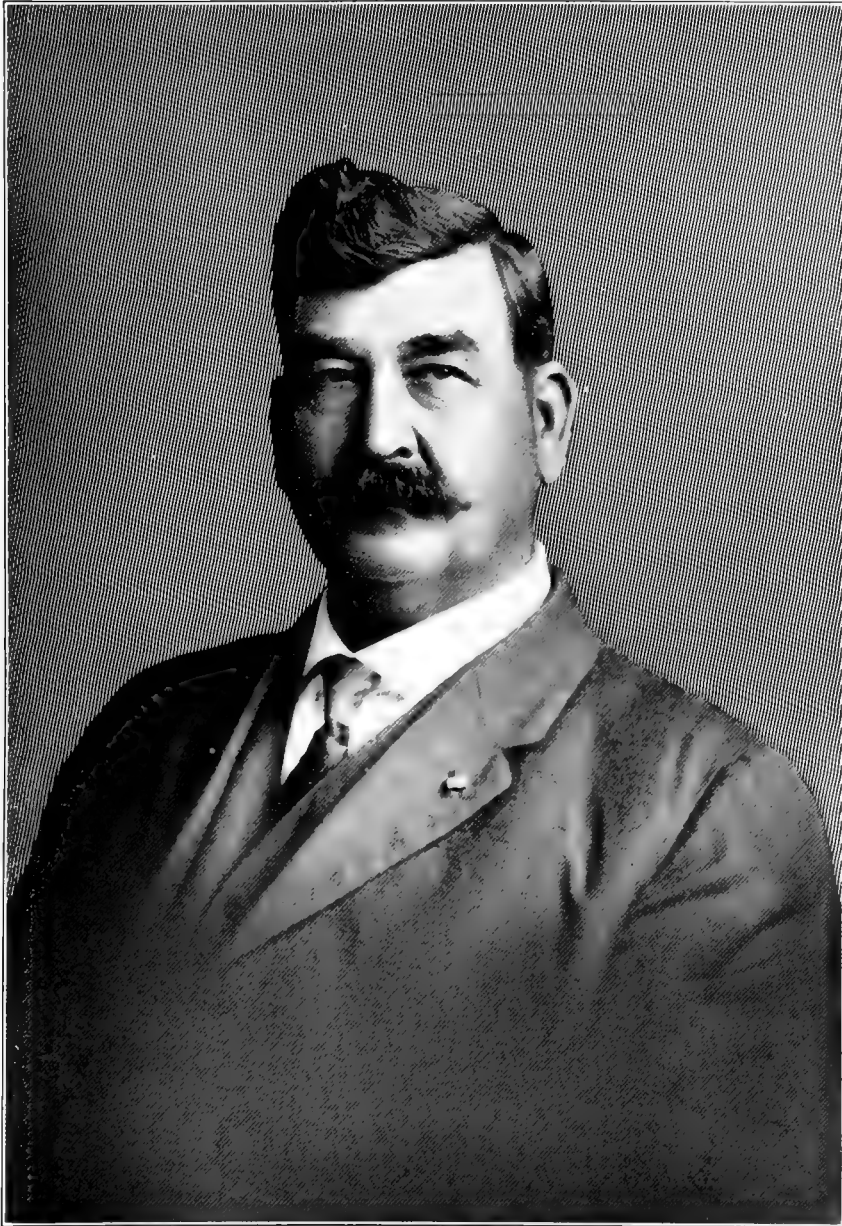
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### CHARLES EUGENE WIGHT.

It is by no means easy to describe within a comparatively few words the career of a man who has been eminently active as a farmer and a business man. Biography finds its justification, nevertheless, in recording the salient points of such a life history. Charles Eugene Wight, the subject of this sketch, is not only one of the substantial and well-known farmers of Monroe township, Putnam county, Ohio, where he is one of the foremost men in the business life of this township. Mr. Wight is at present the president of the Farmers State and Savings Bank, at Continental, Ohio, an institution which was organized on January 20, 1914. Mr. Wight is not only president of the bank, but has also served as a director since the bank was organized.

Charles Eugene Wight was born on December 9, 1861, in Perry township, Wood county, Ohio. It is now known as Bloomdale. Mr. Wight is the son of Reuben and Altha (Reichard) Wight.

The grandfather of Charles E. Wight, Reuben Wight, whose wife was a Van Buren, was a native of New York state. Mrs. Wight was a distant



CHARLES E. WIGHT.



relative of President Van Buren, and was also a native of New York state. They moved to Cleveland, Ohio, when that city was a mere hamlet and settled on a forty-acre tract of land, where the heart of the city is now situated. Reuben Wight died of cholera in 1830, during the plague of that year. Charles E. Wight's father, who was also Reuben Wight, was born in New York state, in April, 1828. He was reared a farmer, but also learned the carpenter's and painter's trades and followed them extensively. He was educated in the common schools and was a man of exceptional intelligence for his day.

Reuben Wight, Jr., was married in 1852, in Lorain county, Ohio, to Altha Reichard, who was born in New York state in May, 1828. They lived in Lorain county for two years, and then moved to Wood county, where they spent nine years, returning to Lorain county, where he had a sixty-acre tract of land, which he farmed. They lived there until the death of his wife, in 1894. Four children were born to this marriage, Alice, who died at an early age; William H., who lives at Glen Elder, Mitchell county, Kansas; Charles Eugene, the subject of this sketch; and Edward, who lives in New Mexico. Both parents of Charles E. Wight were active members of the Baptist church. Since the death of his wife, Reuben Wight has remarried and now lives retired in Lorain county, Ohio.

Charles E. Wight was married in Lorain county, March 12, 1884, to Emma Behner, who was born on July 10, 1866, at La Grange, Lorain county. She is the daughter of John and Lydia (Frasey) Behner. John Behner was married in Lorain county, Ohio, and later moved to Defiance county. He and his wife lived in different parts of Paulding and Putnam counties, Ohio. He at one time owned one-third interest in an extensive hoop, stave and bending company in Clinton, Illinois. He now lives at the home of Mr. Wight, and is retired. He has been a successful business man. He is a Prohibitionist. His wife was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. She died in 1912. They had three children, Emma, the wife of Mr. Wight; Nellie married John Tingle; and Mrs. Ida Miller.

Charles E. Wight left Wood county, Ohio, with his parents at the age of two years, and moved to Lorain county. Here he grew up and was educated. He taught for two years and also farmed on his father's farm. He was reared a farmer and remained on the farm until his marriage. He attended the Western Reserve Normal College, where he took a normal course. He continued to work on the farm until two years after his marriage, when he left his father to purchase a farm of forty acres in section 30,

in Monroe township, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1886, to which he moved. The land was heavily timbered and swampy and only six acres were cleared. Mr. Wight cleared, fenced and drained the land and erected buildings. He improved the land in other ways. By buying and selling, he has added to his original purchase until he has increased it to two hundred and two and one-half acres, which are well located and comprise the best land in the county. Mr. Wight has farmed this land continuously, where he still has his residence.

To Mr. and Mrs. Wight have been born seven children, Susie, who was born on March 27, 1885; Alta, born on August 31, 1889; Florence, born on June 6, 1894; Harvey, born on August 23, 1898; Mark A., born on September 14, 1901; Carl, born on May 9, 1904; and Ruth Esther, born on January 29, 1909. Susie was educated in the Continental (Ohio) schools and was graduated from the high school there. She is also a graduate of the School of Expression, at Ada, Ohio, and has taken a normal course at Lima, Ohio. She taught school for seven years in Monroe township, and also in Palmer township, and in Harding county, Ohio. She is now the bookkeeper in the Farmers' State and Savings Bank, at Continental. Alta has taken a music course at Ada, Ohio, and lives at home. Florence married Frank Cleves, who is a farmer in Monroe county. Harvey was graduated from a short course of agriculture at the Ohio State University at Columbus. He is living at home. The remainder of the children also live at home.

Mr. Wight was one of the organizers of the Farmers' State and Savings Bank, at Continental. He was elected president at its organization, and re-elected to this office January 20, 1915. He is also a director of the bank. He has been president of the Farmers' Mutual Telephone Company and was one of its organizers. At the last reorganization and incorporation of the telephone company, Mr. Wight was elected treasurer and director. He is a director of the Palmer Township Mutual Fire Insurance Association and has been a director of it for a number of years. He is president of the Continental Horse Company, which office he has filled for a number of years.

Mr. Wight is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Hartsburg, Ohio. He has always taken an active interest in church work and was at one time class leader, steward and Sunday school superintendent. He is a trustee of the church at the present time. Mr. Wight and all the members of the family are identified with this church. Mr. Wight is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, at Continental, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at that place. He has passed all of the chairs twice in the latter lodge. Mr. Wight is independent in politics, has served as township



trustee of Monroe township for two terms, but is not active at the present time. He has been connected with the school board of special district for about ten years.

Charles E. Wight is a progressive citizen and a successful farmer and business man. He is a liberal-minded and active in all civic improvements. He is a keen, far-sighted man and a good "mixer" and is popular throughout this section of Putnam county.

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### AUGUST KAHLE.

The subject of this sketch is one of those strong, self-reliant and determined characters who are occasionally met with and who are of such a distinct type as to seem to be born leaders of their fellow-men. Not that Mr. Kahle courts that distinction, for he is entirely unassuming, but his great force of character and his zeal and energy, in whatever he undertakes, naturally places him at the head of the crowd, and he has been a potent factor in the development of Putnam county, where he has long maintained his home and where he is well known to all classes for his honorable and industrial life, in both private and public.

The gentleman, whose name appears at the head of this review, was born in Riemsloh, Province of Hanover, Germany, March 2, 1851, and is the son of Anton and Sophia (Dutting) Kahle, both natives of Germany; the former was born in the town of Glandorf, the latter born in the town of Mille. Anton Kahle conducted a general store in the old country for the greater part of his life and died when August Kahle was a very young boy. To Mr. and Mrs. Anton Kahle were born seven children, August, Antonio, Clemens, deceased; Louisa, deceased; Charles, deceased, and two others who died in infancy. Of these children, August and Charles came to America in the year 1873 and, after landing in the city of New York, they decided to go to Cincinnati, where they remained a while, then went to Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. August returned to Cincinnati and put in about four months' time there, then decided to go back to Glandorf, Ohio. On his return he remained in Glandorf and was employed by Frank Kahle, with whom he remained for six years. After this, a partnership arrangement was made with Ignatius Kahle for the starting of a tile factory in Greensburg township, this county. Subsequently, August bought out the interests of Ignatius Kahle, and con-

tinued the manufacture of tile for about seven years. Believing his possibilities would be greater in farming for a living, he made a trade for one hundred and twenty acres of land situated in Union township, Putnam county, and upon which he erected a number of splendid and commodious farm buildings. To this residential farm, where he now makes his home, were added three hundred and twenty acres more, one hundred and sixty of which is located in Jackson and eight acres in Greensburg township. Believing, also, in town lot investments, Mr. Kahle is now the owner of six lots in the town of Kalida, located near the site of St. Michael's Catholic church.

August Kahle was married on April 28, 1885, to Magdalena Overmeyer, a daughter of Ferdinand and Dorothea (Wilberding) Overmeyer, natives of Germany, and where her father died. Mrs. Overmeyer, together with her son Arnold and Magdalena, came to this country and settled in Glandorf, Ohio, where Arnold became the husband of Mary Luhn, after which he engaged in the manufacturing of cigars, in Ottawa, Ohio. Arnold died about seventeen years ago, and the mother preceded him by about two years. To August Kahle and wife there were born the following named children: August, March 25, 1886; Ferdinand, April 30, 1887; Dorothea, July 16, 1888; Antonius, June 24, 1890, deceased; Leo, May 10, 1892; Magdalena, September 17, 1893; Anthony, March 22, 1895; Clemens, March 27, 1897; Louisa, February 15, 1899; Sophia (infant born), died 1901; Sophia and Antonio, twins, October 2, 1902; Mary, February 8, 1906, died in 1911. Of these children, Ferdinand is married to Clementina Bensman; they have one child, Rudolph, and reside in Jackson township; Dorothea is married to Frank Knueve, and they live in Union township, having one child, Arnold; August, Jr.; Ferdinand and Dorothea attended the district schools in the neighborhood, while all the other children are now attending the parochial school belonging to St. Michael's church in Kalida, Ohio, and of which church the entire family are devout members.

Personally, Mr. Kahle is a man of broad sympathies and takes an abiding interest in the welfare of those about him, and because of his genial disposition and high character, he enjoys a large popularity in the community in which he has spent so many years. To Mrs. Kahle is due a word in appreciation of her devotion and solicitude for her husband and family at all times. She has proven herself a loyal wife and mother, and has even been a source of encouragement in all of her husband's undertakings, which have brought him to notice as a successful agriculturist.

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## CHARLES WILFRED FOGLE, D. V. S.

Within the past quarter of a century there have been many veterinary colleges springing up over the United States and Canada. In this modern day, in practically every state in the Union, a veterinary surgeon must have a state board examination before he can practice his profession, and Ohio has as stringent qualifications as any state in the Union. The treatment of animal diseases has been placed on a scientific basis within the past few years, in such a way that the courses in veterinary colleges are as thorough and scientific in their nature as the courses in medical colleges. Leipsic, Ohio, has a veterinary surgeon in the person of Charles Wilfred Fogle, D. V. S., who is a man of unusual attainments. Graduating with honors in a large class in 1907, he immediately came to Leipsic, where he has since been practicing his profession. He has already made a reputation for himself, which has extended far beyond the limits of his county.

Charles W. Fogle, D. V. S., the son of B. C. and Rebecca Fogle, was born at Williamsburg, Kansas, October 28, 1886. His father was born in Brookville, Jefferson county, Pennsylvania, and his mother in Bedford county, in the same state. B. C. Fogle located in Kansas when a lad with his father, who entered government land there. However, they did not live long on the farm, but traded it for a store about three miles from the Sacs and Fox Indian Reservation. The father of D. C. Fogle did a large and flourishing business with the Indians and the town of Williamsburg was built up around his trading post. B. C. Fogle is now a hardware merchant in this place.

Doctor Fogle was reared in Williamsburg, Kansas, and graduated from the high school in that place in 1905. He at once went to Toronto, Canada, and entered the Ontario Veterinary College, where he remained until he graduated in the spring of 1907. There were one hundred and fifty-seven in his graduating class and he received a gold medal for the highest and best average in his final examination. This is an exceptional honor and one for which all of the best students strive, and shows, in a marked way, the ability of Doctor Fogle. After his graduation he decided to locate in Ohio and passed the Ohio state board examination with a high average. He at once located in Leipsic, where he has since made his home.

Doctor Fogle is a member of the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association, and is a member of the legislative committee of the association. He is also president of the Northwestern Ohio Veterinary Medical Associa-

tion, secretary of the Northwestern Ohio Swine Breeders' Association and a member of the state board of veterinary examiners. He is president of the Leipsic Club, and has been a member of the Leipsic board of public affairs since 1908.

Doctor Fogle takes an active part in the affairs of the Republican party, and is a member of the central committee at the present time. He is an active worker in the Masonic lodge and is the senior warden of the Leipsic blue lodge, high priest of the Ottawa chapter, a member of the Ottawa council and of the commandery at Findlay, Ohio. In addition to his Masonic connections, he is also a member of the Knights of Pythias. Doctor Fogle is a young, unmarried man, a recognized authority on the diseases of animals and is sure to make a name for himself in the years to come.

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#### JOSEPH GERDEMAN.

One of the young farmers of Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, who, for several years, has taken an active part in farmers' institute work, is Joseph J. Gerdeman, the owner of a splendid farm of eighty-six acres in Union township. Since moving to his present farm, Mr. Gerdeman has erected substantial buildings.

Joseph J. Gerdeman was born in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, December 25, 1875, and is a son of Mathias and Elizabeth (Ellerbrock) Gerdeman. Joseph J. Gerdeman's paternal grandparents were Mathias Gerdeman and his wife, pioneers of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, who were natives of the province of Hanover, Germany. Mathias Gerdeman and wife were the parents of the following children: Mathias, who was born in Germany; Henry, Joseph, Jasper, John and two daughters, whose names were Elizabeth and Catherine. Mathias Gerdeman and wife lived in Putnam county the rest of their lives. They were devout members of the Catholic church at Glandorf.

The maternal grandparents of Joseph J. Gerdeman also came from Germany, and were early settlers in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio.

Mathias Gerdeman came from Germany with his parents when he was three years of age, and settled near Glandorf, Putnam county, on a farm in Greensburg township. He attended the school at Glandorf, and was here married to Elizabeth Ellerbrock. After his marriage, he settled on a farm in Ottawa township. He learned the carpenter trade and devoted his at-

tention to this and to agriculture for thirty years. He lived on his farm in Ottawa township until his death, which occurred in 1908, while his wife died in 1906. Mathias Gerdeman, Jr., and wife were the parents of the following children: Frank H., Fred, Joseph J., Mary Anna and Theresa, all of whom are living with the exception of Mary Anna. Frank H. married Margaret Leise, and lives in Findlay, Ohio; Fred married Mary Kreinbrink, and lives in Ottawa; Theresa became the wife of Joseph Herringhaus, and lives in Lima, Ohio; Anna married Andrew Ringlein, of Lima, Ohio. She died in August, 1914; Mary married Bernard Utrup, of Ottawa, where they still reside.

Joseph J. Gerdeman was educated in the district schools of Ottawa township, and lived on his father's farm until he was twenty-five years of age. He had been married three years previously, on May 31, 1898, to Katherine Steffen, a daughter of John and Mary (Kink) Steffen, who lived on a farm near Glandorf. John Steffen was a soldier, during the Civil War, serving with distinction throughout that struggle. He and his wife were parents of the following children: Elizabeth, Anna, Katherine, Amelia, Gertrude, Martha, Frank, George and Lawrence. Elizabeth became the wife of Barney Niese, and lives at Liberty township; Anna is the wife of Joseph Klass, a farmer of Liberty township; Amelia is unmarried; Gertrude is the wife of Mathias Winsinger, and they live in Henry county, Ohio; Martha became the wife of David Shaw, and they live in Hancock county, Ohio; Frank is unmarried. George married Catherine Meyers, and they live on the home place; Lawrence is unmarried.

After his marriage, Mr. Gerdeman lived for three years on his father's farm, when he moved to a farm in Union township, which consisted of eighty-six acres, and which he purchased. Here he erected substantial buildings, remodeled the house and made many other improvements and developed the land into a splendid farm.

Joseph J. Gerdeman and wife are the parents of the following children: Cornelius, born on March 25, 1899; Martha E., born on July 3, 1900; Edwin, born on February 8, 1903; Lawrence, born on June 28, 1904; Mary, born on April 6, 1908; Catherine L., born on July 21, 1910; Lucille, born on October 10, 1911; Paul, born on September 6, 1912, and Richard, born on January 12, 1914.

Mr. Gerdeman, in addition to farming, specializes in live stock on an extensive scale. He takes an active part in all stock shows.

Mr. Gerdeman is a Democrat, while fraternally, he is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio. The Gerdeman family are all devout members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida. Mr. Gerdeman is president of the Mutual Telephone Company, and served Union township as trustee for six years.

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### EBENEZER CASTEEL.

Among the farmers of Putnam county, Ohio, who have believed in twentieth-century methods, is Ebenezer Casteel, a retired farmer and business man, of Continental, Putnam county, Ohio. Mr. Casteel comes from a splendid family and one that has always been strong for right living and industrious habits for education and morality—for all that contributes to the welfare of the commonwealth. Such people are welcome in any community. They are empire-builders and, as such, have pushed the frontier of civilization westward and onward, leaving the green, wide-reaching wilderness and the far-stretching plains populous with contented people and beautiful with green fields. They have constituted that sterling horde which caused the great Bishop Whipple to write the memorable lines: "Westward the course of empire takes its way."

Ebenezer Casteel was born on July 4, 1838, in Licking county, Ohio. He is the son of Thomas and Salome (Livingston) Casteel, the former of whom was born near Cincinnati, Ohio, and came to Licking county when a young man, and here was married. Thomas Casteel was reared a farmer and educated in the township schools. After farming for a time in Licking county, he came to Putnam county in 1858, and settled on a farm of eighty acres in Liberty township. The land was wild and it was in the region north of the Black swamp. There were no roads and wolves could be seen frequently and heard most of the time. Mr. Casteel moved into a log cabin, abandoned by another family, and lived there for one year while he cleared the land and built a house. He farmed this land until his death, at the age of seventy-seven years. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Salome Livingston, was a native of Licking county, Ohio, where she was reared. She died in Putnam county on the homestead farm. To Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Casteel eleven children were born, Andrew, who lives in Liberty township; Jeremiah, who also lives in this township; Ebenezer, the subject of this sketch; Eleanor, deceased; Lorenzo, who lives in Van Buren township; Mrs. Amanda Crooser, of Belmore, Ohio; Mrs. Julia Dillon, who



MR. AND MRS. EBENEZER CASTEEL.





lives in Liberty township: Thomas, of Belmore, Ohio; Elmira, deceased; John, who lives in Henry county, Ohio; and Mrs. Adeline Miley, of Milton City, Ohio. Thomas Casteel was a Democrat throughout his life.

Ebenezer Casteel left Licking county, Ohio, at the age of nineteen, and came to Putnam county with his parents in 1858. He remained with them on the old farm in Liberty township, helping them with the farm work until the first call for volunteers in the Civil War, in 1861. He enlisted in Company D, Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, April 21, 1861, and served three months. He then returned to the farm and lived here until the western fever took hold of him, when he went West for about one year. He, subsequently, returned to the old home place and worked out by the month. He then married and moved to Belmore, Ohio, to live. Here he engaged in the operation of a general store, with Harrison Ensminger. After one year, he traded his interest in the store for a strip of land in Van Buren township, Putnam county. He afterward traded this land for a farm near Belmore, and rented the same. In the meantime, Mr. Casteel was in partnership with the Speaker brothers, at Belmore, Ohio, in conducting a general store, for two years. He afterward started a grocery store, adding dry goods and notions. He was in this store at Belmore for sixteen years, when he moved to Continental, Ohio, in 1890, and was in business in that town for twenty years. Mr. Casteel traded his stock of goods for a farm and retired in 1909. He has owned several farms which he has sold and traded off until he now has one hundred and ten acres of good farming land near Continental, Ohio. His wife was a milliner before her marriage, and conducted a millinery store in Continental for about two years. After moving to town, a daughter, Flora, took charge of the store and is now operating it. Mrs. Casteel also had a store at Belmore, Ohio, for some time. Mr. Casteel built his present store, where his daughter has her shop in operation.

Mr. Casteel was married to Caroline Engle, a native of Logan county, Ohio. To this union six children were born, two of whom are deceased. Those living are, Flora, who is at home; Arthur, who is a railway mail clerk; Mrs. Lola Wymer, of Continental, and Lulu, who is at home. Lola and Lula are twins.

Mr. Casteel is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and has been for the past forty-eight years. He was a charter member of the lodge at Ottawa. He also belonged at Belmore and Continental. Throughout his life, Mr. Casteel has been an active Democrat. He was treasurer of Belmore for a time and also assessor. He was treasurer of Continental

for one year. However, Mr. Casteel is not active in politics at the present time. Mrs. Casteel and her daughters are members of the Lutheran church at Continental, Ohio.

Ebenezer Casteel is a man of excellent habits and a careful, conservative and frugal man, who believes in laying up for a rainy day. He is a good father and a loving husband, careful in his business dealings and has accumulated a snug fortune. He is well known as a free thinker.

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### DR. ETHELBERT WATTERSON.

No other profession has accomplished during the last half-century the progress and development that has been made by the medical profession. The man of original thought and action, whose text books form but the basis of future work, has ever moved forward, taking the advantage of, and utilizing new discoveries in the sciences, and looking always for better methods, surer means to the desired end. Such a man is Dr. Ethelbert Watterson. In considering the character and career of this eminent member of the medical fraternity, the impartial observer will not only be disposed to rank him among the leading members of his profession in Putnam county, but also as one of those men of broad culture and mental ken, who have honored mankind in general. Throughout a long and busy life, replete with honor and success, he has been actuated by the highest motives, and to the practice of his profession he has brought rare skill and resource. His quick perception and almost intuitive judgment enable him to make a correct diagnosis, all that is necessary for proper treatment. He has always been a close student of the medical science, keeping in touch with the latest advances of investigators and discoverers, and has been uniformly successful in practice. Because of his high attainments and his exalted personal character, he is eminently entitled to inclusion in a work of this character.

Dr. Ethelbert Watterson, the well-known physician of Continental, Ohio, was born on September 16, 1869, in Jackson township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of John and Margaret (Harper) Watterson, the former of whom was born near Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

The Watterson family is traceable from four brothers, of Scottish-Irish descent, who came from the Isle of Man, about 1750, and who settled at or near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. From them are descended Henry Wat-

terson, the journalist, of Louisville, and Bishop Watterson, of the Catholic church, of Columbus, Ohio. John Watterson was married in Pennsylvania to Margaret Harper, who was also born near Lancaster, Pennsylvania. They came to Columbus, Ohio, about 1851, and were there when the state house was built. In 1853, they came to Putnam county and entered government land west of the Auglaize and near the line of Jackson township, in Jennings township. The government land at that time cost one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. They settled in the woods in a log shanty and lived on deer meat and corn bread. Before they came here, John Watterson was a carpenter and cabinet maker, and the change was a hard life for him, but he cleared a little of the land, and then sold it, and bought land in Jackson township. About 1876, he purchased the farm in the forks of Hog Creek and the Auglaize river, and there he established his home, reared his family and lived until old age. He spent the rest of his days with his children.

John Watterson was a farmer, but his main business was the carpenter's trade. He was a builder, and built a number of the school houses in Jackson township, and also in Jennings township. He was an apprentice to a cabinet maker at the age of nine years, and was an expert in all lines of work. He died before his eighty-fifth birthday.

John Watterson was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, November 11, 1819, and was the son of Samuel and Lydia (Weeks) Watterson. Samuel Watterson was one of the four brothers heretofore referred to. He came to America at the age of sixteen, and grew to manhood in Chester county, Pennsylvania. He married Lydia Weeks in 1798, and they had five children, James, Mrs. Margaret Bromer, Eliza, Samuel and John. Samuel Watterson lived on his farm in Chester county, until in 1832, when he moved to Philadelphia and spent his declining years with a daughter. John Watterson, the father of Ethelbert Watterson, removed from Chester county to Columbia, Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1847, and there worked five years in a machine shop. He was married to Margaret Harper, April 30, 1847. She was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, February 16, 1823. Her parents were Alexander and Margaret (Rigg) Harper, the former of whom was a native of Ireland, and a tanner by trade. His wife was a native of Pennsylvania. During the war of 1812, Samuel Watterson and Alexander Harper refused to forswear their allegiance to the King of England, and to become naturalized citizens of the United States. They were sent to the interior of the state by the military authorities.

John and Margaret (Harper) Watterson had nine children as follow: Rachel Ann, deceased; James Alexander, born on October 30, 1850, deceased; Samuel, born on October 2, 1853, deceased; William Harper, born on April 9, 1855, deceased; Clara J., born on December 30, 1856, married Wallace Vail, of Kalida, Ohio; George Owens, born on March 30, 1859, lives in Kalida; Dr. John Davis, who lives at Kalida; Charles Sherman, born on May 6, 1865, deceased, and Dr. Ethelbert, born on September 16, 1869, is the subject of this sketch.

Mrs. Margaret (Harper) Watterson died on November 27, 1894. She was a devout member of the Presbyterian church. Politically, John Watterson was a Democrat. He held several local offices, among which were those of justice of the peace, six years; township treasurer, several terms, and township trustee for several years. Fraternally, he was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, No. 80, at Columbus, Ohio.

Dr. Ethelbert Watterson, the subject of this sketch, grew up on the farm. He was educated in the public schools in Putnam county, and subsequently attended the Tri-State Normal College, at Angola, Indiana. On September 16, before his sixteenth birthday, he began teaching at the Antioch school, three miles north of Ottoville. For twelve years he was a teacher, three years at Antioch; three years at the Gott school, near Kalida; three years at Vaughnsville, and three years in West Leipsic.

In the spring of 1898, Doctor Watterson made a canvass for county auditor, and in the fall of 1898, entered the Ohio State Medical University, at Columbus, graduating in April, 1902. He then located in Continental, and began practicing his profession, which he has continued ever since.

Doctor Watterson was married in 1893, to Rose Gander, who was born in Sugar Creek township, and who is the daughter of John and Susan (Garner) Gander. John Gander is descended from one of the early pioneer families in the southern part of Putnam county. His family settled south of Vaughnsville, not far from Gomer, in Allen county, but removed across the line into Putnam county, before John Gander was married. The Gander family came from Virginia in an early day, and settled between Vaughnsville and Columbus Grove. John Gander lived in Columbus Grove a part of his life, and a part on the farm near Vaughnsville. It was at the latter place where Mrs. Watterson grew up. She attended the public schools at Vaughnsville and the Tri-State Normal College at Angola, Indiana. She attended the public schools a part of the time, while Doctor Watterson was there, and it was there they became acquainted. She, too, engaged in teaching and taught three years near Vaughnsville.

Doctor Watterson and wife had three children, Lelah Margaret, Florence Mary and John Gaylen. Margaret is now a junior in Ohio State University. Florence graduated from the Continental high school and is now a student in the normal school. Mrs. Watterson died in 1913. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and the Eastern Star Lodge, the Twentieth Century Club, and also the Pythian Sisters. She was especially active in the Methodist church, living close to its teachings, a good wife who loved her children and reared them with a mother's devotion.

Naturally, Doctor Watterson is a Democrat. He is active in the councils of his party. For ten years he has been on the school board of Continental, and is now president of the board. He was twice elected to the city council, but resigned during his second term. Doctor Watterson owns a home in Continental, and is thoroughly identified with all the civic, political and religious activities of the town. He belongs to the Methodist church, and is chairman of the board of stewards. He is a member of the Knights Templar, blue lodge, at Continental, chapter and council at Ottawa, and the Knights Templar at Defiance. He also belongs to the Knights of Pythias. He has been a Mason since he was twenty-one years old, having handed in his application before he was of age.

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### JOSEPH A. UNVERFERTH.

Putnam county has long been noted for its splendid type of farmers. In the early settlement of this part of Ohio, many Germans came and, with their native thrift and industry, soon prospered and today their descendants form the bulwark of Putnam county's citizenship. Among the many well-known Germans descended from the early German pioneers, is Joseph Unverferth.

Joseph Unverferth was born in Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, March 11, 1869. He is the son of Anthony and Theresa (Tenwealde) Unverferth, who were well-known residents of Glandorf.

Anthony Unverferth, the father of Joseph Unverferth, when two and one-half years of age, was brought to this country by his parents from Hanover, Germany. They settled in Glandorf, Putnam county, which had been settled some years before by the renowned Father Horstman and a band of German colonists. The Unverferth family here settled on a farm and, amid the splendid surroundings of this little community. Anthony

Unverferth grew up. His early life was spent on his father's farm and his education was secured in the primitive school of that day. He married Theresa Tenwealde, the daughter of Henry Tenwealde and wife, of Glandorf, and to this union were born the following children: Henry, deceased; Henry, Joseph, Mary, Theresa, Anna and Frank. Of these, Henry married Anna Klemen and lives in Greensburg township; Mary married George Klemen and lives in Pleasant township; Theresa married Barney Klemen; Anna married Frank Hohenbrink; Frank married Mary Vogel; the last three families now reside in Greensburg township.

Joseph Unverferth, the subject of this speech, was educated in Greensburg township and during the early years of his life worked on his father's farm. On May 31, 1892, he was married to Elizabeth Meyer, a daughter of Gerhard and Elizabeth (Dickman) Meyer, both of whom were natives of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Meyer were married in Glandorf, Putnam county, and to them were born the following children: Mary, Catherine, John, Theresa, Henry, Caroline, Joseph and Elizabeth. Of these, Mary married Frank Deters and resides in Henry county; Catherine married W. Jerwers and lives in New Cleveland; John married Catherine Smith, who died, and later he married Catherine Hark and now lives in Ottawa; Theresa married William Annesser and lives in Canada; Caroline married Jodokus Schmitz and lives in Pleasant township; Joseph married Mary Brinkman and lives in Union township.

After his marriage, Mr. Unverferth first rented a farm and lived in Pleasant township for three years before coming to his present farm. He moved to the farm he now occupies in Union township in 1902, which he and his father owned in low bottoms. It consists of one hundred and sixty acres which Mr. Unverferth, with the appliance of modern agricultural science, has developed into a splendid farm. He later purchased two other tracts of land of about one hundred acres. Mr. Unverferth now owns and farms two hundred and fifty acres.

To Mr. and Mrs. Unverferth, have been born the following children: Lawrence, born on May 7, 1893; Leona, born on July 4, 1895; Leo, born on October 17, 1898; Arthur, born on March 15, 1901; Sarah, born on August 11, 1903; Oscar, born on December 28, 1905; Francis, born on April 12, 1908, and Alfred, born on May 2, 1911. Of these children, Lawrence married Loretta Quinn and lives in Union township; Leona married Russell Hamilton and they make their home with Mr. and Mrs. Unverferth.

Mr. Unverferth is known and admired for his untiring industry and is an exponent of advanced ideas in farming. He has one of the best equipped farms in the county in modern farm machinery. His tractor and other outfits, including a gang plow, are in great demand among the other farmers and he has at various times devoted some attention to public contract work. Mr. Unverferth is engaged in general farming and also raises full-blooded Shorthorn cattle.

The Unverferth family are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, and have always been conspicuously identified with all its good work and are highly regarded in the social sphere of this community.

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#### DAVID HENRY RENSHAW.

A successful farmer of Van Buren township, Putnam county, Ohio, where he has made his home since 1865, is David Henry Renshaw, who has devoted his whole life to agricultural pursuits. He has led a quiet and uneventful life on the farm and has never cared to take an active part in the life of his community.

David H. Renshaw, the son of Thomas and Maria (Young) Renshaw, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, April 4, 1861. His father was born in the same county, May 10, 1833, a son of Reverend David and Eliza (Armstrong) Renshaw. David Renshaw was born in Pennsylvania, came to Ohio in the early history of the state and was married, in Ohio, to Eliza Armstrong. David Renshaw was a farmer and a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church. He and his wife, Eliza, reared a family of eight children, Thomas, John, Samuel, Mary, Serepta, Sarah, Frank and Ransome.

Thomas Renshaw attended the common schools of Fairfield county, and helped his father on the home place, until he was married at the age of twenty-five. He married Maria Young on March 28, 1858. She was a daughter of Henry and Nancy Young, natives of Pennsylvania and Maryland, respectively. Henry Young and wife were the parents of a large family of children, James, Hester, Rachel, Rebecca, William, Nicholas, Charles, Maria, Serenia, Sarah, Rhoda, Lorain and Keziah. Of these children, Charles died in infancy.

Thomas Renshaw remained in Fairfield county, Ohio, until 1865, when he moved to Putnam county and bought a farm of eighty acres from his

father. This place he cleared and lived on until his death, December 17, 1913. Four children were born to Thomas and Maria (Young) Renshaw, David and Byron, who are living on the old home farm; Kate, who married John Welch, of Wood county, and has eight children, Sylvia, Harley, Leslie, Lewis, Emmett, Lawrence, Myrtle and Glee; William T., of Clyde, Ohio, who married Louise Barrack, and has two children, Grace and Bergan.

David H. Renshaw has never married, and he and his brother, Byron, who was born on September 20, 1870, are now managing the old home farm, where they were reared. The brothers are Republicans, but neither of them has ever been active in its councils. They are good citizens and progressive farmers and have a large circle of friends and acquaintances throughout the township.

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### HARRY C. PARRETT.

The gentleman to a brief review of whose life the reader's attention is herewith directed, is among the foremost business men of Continental, Putnam county, Ohio. By his enterprise, industry, management and progressive methods, he has assisted materially in the industrial and commercial advancement of this community. Mr. Parrett is possessed of rather exceptional executive and business ability. He is numbered among the foremost citizens, of Continental, and is honored and respected by all of his neighbors for his many good qualities.

Harry C. Parrett was born on September 8, 1878, in Columbus Grove, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Samuel R. and Linda (McKibben) Parrett, the former of whom was born on July 4, 1854, in Fayette county, Ohio, and was the son of John S. and Angelina (Fifer) Parrett. John S. Parrett was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, where his wife was native born. He grew to manhood in Virginia and came to Fayette county, Ohio, in 1852, locating on a farm in Fayette county. Outside of two years spent in Illinois, he lived in Fayette county until 1865, when he moved to Powell creek, in Monroe township. Here he farmed until his death, in 1908. His wife died four years previously, in 1904.

Samuel R. Parrett was eleven years old when he came to Monroe township with his parents. He remained on the home farm until his marriage, in 1877, to Linda McKibben, a native of Athens county, Ohio, born in 1855, and the daughter of Samuel and Anna (Farrabee) McKibben.





HARRY C. PARRETT.



Samuel McKibben was a native of Ohio, whose father, Joseph McKibben, was a native of North Ireland, who came to Ohio in pioneer times. After his marriage, Samuel Parrett located in Monroe township, and farmed here on sixty-four acres of land. With the exception of one year spent in Columbus Grove, he has always lived in Monroe township. He is still an active farmer. Samuel and Linda Parrett had one son, Harry C., the subject of this sketch. Samuel Parrett is a member of the Masonic fraternity at Continental, and at one time was trustee of the township. He served many years as a member of the school board and held other minor offices. He is a Democrat; is a member of the Zion Christian church, where his wife is also a worshiper. Mr. Parrett has held minor offices in this church and was treasurer for many years.

Harry C. Parrett grew to manhood on the home place and was reared as a farmer. He was educated in the township schools and taught school for a period of five years in Monroe township.

Mr. Parrett was married on October 5, 1902, to Myrtle Wisterman, a daughter of David and Leander (Brower) Wisterman, both of whom are natives of Putnam county. Mrs. Parrett was born in Monroe township, July 10, 1884. David and Leander Wisterman had nine children, of whom Mrs. Parrett was the youngest of the family.

Harry C. Parrett farmed in Monroe township after his marriage, living on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He removed to Continental in 1906, and entered the implement and hardware business alone. He followed this business for three years, when he sold out and entered his present business of real estate, insurance and loans. He is still active in business.

Mr. Parrett is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, Lodge No. 570, at Continental. He served as town councilman and was treasurer for two years, 1912 and 1913. During the latter year, he was elected mayor of Continental, and is now filling this position with credit to himself and his community. He is a staunch Democrat and has always been active in the councils of this party. Although Mr. Parrett is not a member of any church, he was reared as an adherent of the Christian church. It is not necessary for the biographer to say that Harry C. Parrett is highly respected in Continental, Ohio. The many positions of trust and responsibility which he has held show, better than any words of testimony, the character of the confidence reposed in him by the people of this township. Mr. Parrett has proved himself worthy of these trusts and is admired today as one of the leading citizens of Putnam county.

## ADAM TRIETCH.

Among the farmers of German birth who have brought to the operation of their farms the intensive methods adopted from stern necessity in the old country, and have made those methods apply so successfully here, as to attract general attention and emulation, the gentleman, whose name is noted above, is clearly entitled to mention and it is a pleasure to present here a brief narrative of the distinctive points in his career.

Adam Trietch was born in Hesse, Germany, May 29, 1863, the son of Andrew and Catherine (Linner) Trietch, both of whom were natives of the same province of the Fatherland.

Andrew Trietch was born in July, 1826, and was a tailor all his life, a man highly respected in his home place. He was twice married, by his first wife having four children, Nicholas, deceased; Mrs. Elizabeth Gerish, of Crestline, Ohio; George, who remained in Germany, and Andrew, deceased. By his marriage with Catherine Linner, Andrew Trietch had three children, Adam, with whom this sketch directly treats; Mrs. Lizzie Knapp, who lives in Germany, and Mrs. Barbara Eding, who lives at Cleveland, Ohio. Andrew Trietch died at the age of seventy-nine and his wife, the mother of Adam, died at the age of sixty-eight.

Adam Trietch left his home in Germany when he reached the age of fourteen and went to Switzerland, where he worked for about three years, at the end of which time he made up his mind to try his fortunes across the sea. To this end he came to America and found his way to Holgate, Ohio, where his uncle, Nicholas Trietch, had been living for some years. In that vicinity he worked on farms until he was twenty-seven years of age, engaging his services by the month to the farmers of the neighborhood and there he met and married, on April 29, 1890, Mary Elizabeth Brinkman, who was born in Henry county, Ohio, June 23, 1866, the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Reiter) Brinkman, the former of whom was born in Crawford county, Ohio, July 15, 1832, and the latter being born in Pennsylvania, March 1, 1838, and both of whom are enjoying good health in their hale old age at Holgate, Ohio, Mr. Brinkman being eighty-three years of age and Mrs. Brinkman being seventy-seven.

Henry Brinkman spent his boyhood days in Crawford county, Ohio, his parents having been pioneer farmers of that county, and received such education as the meager schools of that day afforded, being trained in the ways of farming, which vocation he followed all his active days. He was

married in Crawford county, and later moved to Henry county, where he farmed for a time, then moving into the town of Holgate where he is now living in comfortable retirement. He and his wife are the parents of six children, the others being Mrs. Cinderella Wolf, Frank and John, all of whom live in Henry county, Ohio, and Anna, who died in infancy, and Mrs. Hattie Rennecker, of Indiana.

After his marriage, Adam Trietch farmed in Henry county for three or four years and then moved to Defiance county, where he was engaged in farming for five years, at the end of which time he came to Putnam county, on February 16, 1899, locating on his present farm in Monroe township. At the time Mr. Trietch bought this farm, it contained but eighty acres and was in a badly run-down condition, having been but little improved. He went in debt to the amount of eighteen hundred dollars on making this purchase and until he began to see his way clear he and his wife were content to live in a small log house, which had been constructed on the place in an early day, and to adopt such frugal methods of living as their prudence suggested during this trying time. Living thus and working as they were compelled to work, required a large stock of courage and no end of industry, but he and his wife were equal to the occasion and they now have a place of which not only they are proud, but which is a distinct credit to the community. Not only have Mr. and Mrs. Trietch succeeded in clearing and improving their original tract of eighty acres, but, as affairs prospered with them, they enlarged their farm by the purchase of an adjoining eighty, and now have one of the best and most attractive farms in that part of the county. They erected their fine new home in 1908, and the barn and other buildings on the place are in keeping with the same. Their farm is known far and near as "Cloverleaf Farm," and is one of the best-kept places in Monroe township, reflecting, as it does, the progressive ideas and careful management of the owners.

To Adam and Mary Elizabeth (Brinkman) Trietch have been born seven children, as follow: Hattie, who married Andrew Friend, a well-known farmer of Monroe township, this county, and who has one son; Clarence, Emma, George, Orville, Leah and Edgar, who are still at home and whose assistance has been no small factor in the general improvement of their well-appointed home place. The Trietches are members of the Mt. Zion church, in the various beneficences of which they are deeply interested and in the other good works of which congregation they take an active part, as well as participating in all local movements designed to advance the public weal.

Mr. Trietch is a Republican on national issues, but in voting on local issues is rather independent, preferring to reserve his right to vote for the best man, regardless of party affiliations. Not only has he been diligent in his business, but he has found time to devote a good share of his energy to the public interest and has been prompt to lend his aid to any cause which promised better things for the community. For some time he served the township most effectively as a member of the school board and his interest in educational matters was exerted very helpfully in advancing the interests of the schools in Monroe township. He has proved himself a good citizen during the years he has lived in that community. An excellent farmer, he has acquired a fair competence and is not disturbed by thoughts of the future. He has a kind word for everybody and no one in the neighborhood is more popular than he.

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#### AMOS NICHOLS.

Four generations of the Nichols family have added their part to the development of Putnam county, and no history of this county would be complete without fitting reference to the life and work of the gentleman whose name at the head of this biographical sketch, stands as a typical representative of the family in this section of the state.

Amos Nichols was born in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, October 7, 1850, the son of Edward and Margaret (Irwin) Nichols, the former of whom was born in Licking county, Ohio, in the year 1823, the son of Joseph and Hanna (Brown) Nichols, and the latter of whom was the daughter of Josiah Kennedy Irwin, one of the early settlers of this county.

Joseph Nichols was born in 1790, in Virginia, but early in his life left the Old Dominion and came to Ohio, locating in Licking county, where his son Edward was born, migrating to Putnam county when this son was quite young, and settling in Union township. This was about the year 1834, which makes Joseph Nichols one of the earliest settlers of that part of the county. At that time all that portion of the county was heavily timbered and it was no small task for the pioneer Nichols to clear the farm which he had undertaken to reclaim from the wilderness. He entered from the government a tract of one hundred and sixty acres, which, in time, he succeeded in clearing and which he gradually brought to a high state of culti-

vation. Joseph Nichols took a prominent part in the early social and civic activities of the pioneers and became, by force of character, one of the leaders in the community life of the time. Here he and his good wife spent the rest of their lives, the death of the former occurring in 1861.

It was amid these pioneer conditions that Edward Nichols grew to manhood's estate, receiving such meager education as the schools of that period offered the youth, and, under the careful attention of his parents, he acquired a full knowledge of the needs of the life of a farmer, which vocation he had decided to follow. He married Margaret Irwin, whose parents also were pioneers of that section, and continued to farm the home place until his death at the early age of thirty-nine. His wife, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, February 23, 1818, survived him many years, her death not occurring until the year 1893. Further details of the genealogy of Mrs. Nichols may be found in the biographical sketch of her brother, Ben Irwin, presented elsewhere in this volume.

To Edward and Margaret (Irwin) Nichols nine children were born, as follow: Mrs. Martha Holt, of Columbus Grove, Ohio; Mrs. Lucinda Rimer, of Columbus Grove; Joseph, who lives in Paulding county, Ohio; Sarah Ann, who married J. C. Best and lives in Union township, this county; Amos, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Mrs. Hettie Martin, who lives near Dundee, Michigan; Edward, who died at the age of four; Mrs. Elizabeth Jane Anderson, who lives at Marion, Indiana, and Mrs. Hannah Spratt, who lives at Weston, Ohio.

Amos Nichols grew to manhood on the parental farm, receiving his schooling in the district schools, and on January 25, 1872, married Martha Ellen Hayden, who was born in Sugar Creek township, this county, on May 22, 1854, the daughter of Nathaniel and Eliza (Brothers) Hayden, pioneers of this county.

To the union of Amos and Martha Ellen (Hayden) Nichols, eleven children were born, as follow: Lucinda, who married P. W. Shane, of Lima, Ohio, to which union there were born twelve children, Elmer, Blanche, Lizzie, Gladys, Agnes, Pearl, Grace, Dallas, Edith, Stanley, Ernest and another, the latter three of whom died in infancy; Clarke, who is a farmer living in Allen county, Ohio, married Elizabeth Rumel and has no children; Alvin, married Belle Jane Logan and lives at Alberta, Canada, and has no children; Mina May married Charles Benroth, of Columbus Grove, this county, and has six children, Leslie, Florence, Carrie, Clyde, Fay and Zenis; Gilbert Lewis, who also lives in Alberta, was married, but his wife died, leaving him with three children, Martha, Alfred and Clarence; Hannah,

who died January 10, 1909, married George D. McCombs, an Allen county farmer, and had one child, a son, Kenneth; Grover, a Union township farmer, married Carrie Roberts and has four children, Carl Maxwell, Helen Lucille, Paul Eugene and Orin; Edward, a Jackson township farmer, married Minnie Kneuve and has three children, Edna Martha, Kermit and Jerome; John Elmer, who also lives in Alberta, married Cuba Swartzkopf and has one child, a daughter, Evelyn; Ethel, who died on June 11, 1914, married James McKenna, a Pleasant township farmer, and had two children, Muriel and Zelma; Hazel, died April 28, 1914.

It was in the fall of 1872, following his marriage, that Amos Nichols moved to the farm on which he now lives and there he reared his large family and provided a comfortable competence for his declining years. Though still living on the farm, he has practically retired from the active work of the same, giving the management of the farm over to his son Grover, who lives on a portion of the home place. During his life of activity in the community in which he was born, Amos Nichols has become one of the leaders in that section. He is one of the local leaders of the Democratic party and served his township for one term as assessor and for many years has been a school director in his district. He is a man of genial disposition and high character, and he and his wife ever have been counted among the leaders in the good works of their community, both being very popular in the circle in which they move. They have a fine farm on an excellent location and are among the substantial citizens of that township.

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#### HENRY KREINBRINK.

One of the many excellent farmers of Putnam county, Ohio, of German descent, is Henry Kreinbrink, who was born at Glandorf, this county, and has made this his home for the past forty-eight years. He was reared in this county and after his marriage settled down to the life of a farmer, and now has a well-improved farm with a good home, where he and his family are surrounded with all the comforts and conveniences of life.

Henry Kreinbrink, the son of Rudolph and Elizabeth (Gosling) Kreinbrink, was born on March 12, 1867, at Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. His father was a native of Germany, his birth occurring at Osnabruck, Hanover, Germany, on December 24, 1857; he was a son of John Kreinbrink, who came to America when Rudolph was about ten years of age. John Kreinbrink and



his family lived in Cincinnati for a time and then removed to Putnam county, Ohio, locating in Glandorf, where Rudolph was reared to manhood and married Elizabeth Gosling, who was born at Clarholz, Prussia. Her father died there and her mother later married Anton Brokamp, and then she came to America at the age of ten with her mother and stepfather, and located west of Glandorf along the Findlay, Fort Wayne & Western Railway.

Rudolph Kreinbrink and his wife, Elizabeth Gosling, bought a farm four miles north of Glandorf, and here made their home the remainder of their lives. Mr. Kreinbrink had a farm of one hundred and ninety-three acres, which he improved and brought to a high state of cultivation. He died on April 13, 1895, and his widow passed away on February 2, 1913. Rudolph Kreinbrink and wife were the parents of twelve children, of whom three sons and one daughter died in infancy. There are five sons and three daughters living: Ignatius, Thresia, the wife of Barney Brown; Anna, the wife of John Weis; Henry, a farmer of Liberty township; Philomena, a sister in the Lorraine hospital; Joseph, Theodore and Louis.

Henry Kreinbrink was reared on his father's farm and received such education as was given in the schools of his neighborhood. After his marriage he bought a farm of eighty-nine acres, just west of West Leipsic, and has made this his home ever since. He remodeled the house and had it equipped with all the modern conveniences in order to make life more pleasant. He has engaged in general farming and stock-raising, and with that success which always attends the thrifty German farmer of this county.

Mr. Kreinbrink was married on June 1, 1892, to Mary Meyer, who was born south of Glandorf, in this county, and who is a daughter of George B. and Anna Mary (Moening) Meyer. Her father was a native of Germany, born in Glandorf, Hanover, on August 26, 1833. He was not more than one year old when his parents came to America and located southwest of Glandorf, in Putnam county. Mr. Meyers settled in the dense woods and they had to clear the land, built their cabin and endured all the toil and privations of pioneer life. Anna Mary Moening, the mother of Mrs. Kreinbrink, was a sister of Henry Moening, whose history elsewhere in this volume gives an account of the Moening family. George B. Meyer farmed all of his life northwest of Glandorf and was the owner of a good farm. He died on September 17, 1900, and his widow passed away March 6, 1912. Eleven children were born to George B. Meyer and wife, two of whom died at the age of three, one at the age of nine, and Catherine, who was the wife of Frank Karhoff, died at the age of twenty. Seven children are still living: J. Henry, Theodore, Joseph, Herman, Anna Mary, Frank and Elizabeth, the

wife of Joseph Kleman. The sketch of J. Henry Meyer, elsewhere in this work, gives more of the Meyer family history.

Henry Kreinbrink and wife are the parents of nine children living and one deceased. Mary died in 1900 at the age of fourteen months, while the other living children are as follow: Elizabeth, Ana, John, August, Ferdinand, Rosa, Clara, Alphonse and Vincent. All of these children are still single except Elizabeth, who is the wife of Louis Kleman, and who lives on the Henry Moening farm near Glandorf. They have one son, Victor. Mr. Kreinbrink and his family are all loyal members of the Catholic church and liberal supporters of its various activities.

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### THEODORE VERHOFF.

Descended from honored ancestry and himself numbered among the leading residents of Putnam county, Ohio, the subject of this review is worthy of specific recognition in a work of this character. Residing in this county for so many years has but strengthened his hold on public opinion, and today none in this community enjoys a larger circle of warm friends and acquaintances, who esteem him because of his sterling qualities of character and business ability.

Theodore Verhoff was born in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, June 17, 1838, and is the son of Francis and Mary (Kramer) Verhoff. The subject's grandparents, on the father's side, were born, lived and died in Germany, but on the mother's side, Theodore and Gertrude (Veraking) Kramer, who were married in Germany, and resided there many years, came to this country when the elder Kramer was about fifty years of age. They settled on a farm in Putnam county, Ohio, and to them were born six children, William, Henry, Catherine, Christina and Mary, all of whom are now deceased, except Frederick, who is the surviving one.

Francis Verhoff, father of Theodore Verhoff, was born in Westphalia, Prussia, and came to America in 1836 by himself and settled near Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, on a small farm, the original tract consisting of twenty six acres. Having learned the blacksmithing trade, and realizing the necessity for such a business in his community, it is interesting to record that he was the proprietor of the first blacksmith shop in this county. This was operated in connection with his farm for many years and bore a reputation for first-class workmanship.



MR. AND MRS. THEODORE VERHOFF.



About the year 1837, Francis Verhoff and Mary Kramer were joined in matrimony, and resided on the farm belonging to the former. To them were born eleven children, Theodore, Gertrude, Christina, Catherine, Mary Ann, Frank, Henry, William (now deceased), Charles, William and Florentine. The father of these children, prior to his death in 1863, had acquired a full section of land. With the assistance of the sons, the greater portion of this tract was cleared and properly prepared for miscellaneous farming and the raising of stock. This farm is pointed to with great pride by the descendants. Mr. Verhoff, being one of the pioneer settlers of Putnam county, came here shortly after the founding of the town of Glandorf by Professor Horstman, a native of Germany. The wife and mother lived until the year 1901, during which year she was called by the Master of Destiny and was laid away with the father. It may be well said that they were loyal and practical members of the Roman Catholic church, attending St. John's church, at Glandorf. They left behind them enviable reputations for good citizenship and set their children a good example of true christian life.

Theodore Verhoff, the subject of this review, received a good common-school education. He was a man of keen observation and devoted himself to farming and stock-raising with a decided degree of success. He was married on June 18, 1861, to Elizabeth Egbers, who, at that time, was just twenty years of age, and who was the daughter of Theodore Egbers and wife. Having decided to reside on a portion of the large farm bequeathed to the children of Francis Verhoff, they located on seventy-eight acres in sections 9 and 16, Greensburg township, and which was put to use in the usual course of farming. To Theodore Verhoff and wife were born twelve children, and they are enumerated, in the order of their birth dates, as follow: Frank J., June 22, 1864; William F., August 22, 1866; Barney Henry, July 22, 1869; John Theodore, April 6, 1870; Joseph Charles, March 15, 1873; John Barney, April 15, 1875; August George, February 5, 1877; Aloisa Albert, February 18, 1883; Mary Elizabeth, April 13, 1862 (now deceased); Mary Ann, March 4, 1863; Amelia Helena, June 21, 1879; Mary Regina, February 24, 1881. Marriages of these children have taken place as follow: John Frank to Elizabeth Hamberg, who have a family of eight children; William F. to Agnes Lemper, to whom there have been born seven children; Barney Henry to Elizabeth Gerdeman, who have two children; John Theodore to Catherine Brinkman, who have four living children and one deceased; Charles Joseph to Amelia Schroeder, with one child; John Barney to Mary Lemper, who have two children; August George to Nora

Westbeld, who have two children; Amelia Helena to Barney Siefker, who have six children; Alloisa Albert to Veronica Schmiedebusch, who have two children. Mary Ann, up to this writing, is recorded as single, as is also Mary Regina. All are residents of Putnam county.

Mr. Verhoff, observing that his youngest son, Alloisa, took such a keen interest in the farm and in the raising of blooded stock, he appointed him to the management of his farm, son after his marriage to Veronica Schmiedebusch. This marriage occurred on June 6, 1911, and the wife was one of the large family of Frank and Gertrude Schmiedebusch, natives of Putnam county, and who are engaged in farming. Besides the daughter named, they are blessed with eight other children, Emma, Gertrude, Sylvester, Laura, Clara, Edward, Charles and Frank. Alloisa and Veronica are now the proud possessors of two children, Gertrude Elizabeth, born on May 8, 1912, and Cornelius Frank Theodore, born on September 30, 1913.

In the management of the farm, and practically the entire responsibility for its success ultimately resting upon the son, Alloisa, it should be recorded that it is one of the best-managed stock and general-purpose farms in this section of the country. Particular attention is given to the breeding of Holstein cattle, Poland-China hogs, Belgian horses, etc. The farm buildings, commodious and comfortable, are kept in first-class condition and everything clearly indicated an industrious and business-like management. Great credit is due Alloisa Verhoff and in appreciation of his efforts in behalf of the place, a short time before his marriage, his father bequeathed the farm to him, reserving a life interest in it.

Theodore Verhoff, whose wife died on March 20, 1905, is, despite his age, a remarkably bright and active man mentally. It is indeed interesting to hear this pioneer settler's anecdotes of early days, besides observing his keen interest in public affairs. Mr. Verhoff served on the local school board for many years, taking an active and aggressive part in everything looking toward the advancement of the young folks. He was a firm believer in the principles of Democracy. He is a member of St. John's Catholic church, of Glandorf, Ohio, to which he contributes liberally, according to his means. Mr. Verhoff enjoys a large circle of friends and companions, and, because of his high personal standing, is popular throughout the community, being numbered among Putnam's county's most enterprising and progressive citizens.

Alloisa bought fifty acres of land in section 9, adjoining the home place, a year before his marriage, and devotes a part of his time to its cultivation and improvement.

## FRANK LOGAN.

Among the public men of Putnam county, Ohio, men who have given of the best of their services through a long period of years, unselfishly and devotedly, to the public interest, few are better known or more deservedly popular than County Commissioner Frank Logan, a brief and modest biography of whom it is a pleasure for the historian to present at this point in this comprehensive and illuminating history of Putnam county. By gradual degrees, Mr. Logan has come to his present eminence in county affairs, his long training in the public service having equipped him, as few men in the public life of the county have been equipped, for the exacting duties of the office to which he was called by the people at the last election. For twenty years a justice of the peace of Union township; for five terms as assessor in the same township; president of the school board for twenty years past, and land appraiser, there are few men who have had better training for public service than has he, a fact which the voters of the county appreciated when they placed him on the board of county commissioners, the most important executive department of the county government, and to which he has brought well-trained ability and soundness of judgment, together with a thorough knowledge of public affairs and the best needs of the commonwealth, which ought to prove most serviceable to the people of the county and to the administration of their common business affairs. Faithful to the public trusts to which he frequently has been called and diligent in his own business, Mr. Logan has brought to the office of county commissioner a ripe experience of affairs and a devotion to the public weal, which his friends are quite sure will redound greatly to the benefit of the whole people of the county.

Frank Logan was born in Monroe township, Allen county, Ohio, March 31, 1858, son of Israel S. and Maria (Cowen) Logan, and has spent his whole life in this section of the state, with the public affairs of which and with the needs of which he is thoroughly acquainted.

Israel Logan, father of Frank Logan, was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, June 1, 1834, the son of Joseph Logan and wife, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania and the latter a native of Ohio.

Joseph Logan, father of Israel, was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, his father, Joseph Logan, Sr., having been a native of Vannangoe county, same state, who settled in Allegheny county, where he became one of the county's most substantial farmers and useful citizens. Joseph, Jr.,

grew up in Allegheny county and married there, later moving to Tuscarawas county, Ohio, where his son Israel was born, and still later, at the time Israel was two years of age, moving to Putnam county, locating in Sugar Creek township, where he died in 1841, when Israel was seven years of age. At the death of his father, Israel was taken into the home of the Clevenger family in Sugar Grove township, where he was carefully reared and where he learned the essential principles of farming, a vocation which he followed all his life. He remained in the Clevenger home until he attained his majority, after which he obtained a position as driver of an overland wagon, a "prairie schooner," on a wagon train bound for western Iowa. This was in the year 1855 and he remained in the West for a time, but upon being seized with a severe attack of mountain fever, decided to return to his Ohio home. As soon as he was able to travel he came back to Putnam county and on January 7, 1857, was united in marriage with Miss Maria Cowan, a native of Columbus, Ohio, who had come to Kalida, this county, from Columbus with her mother, following the death of her father and who grew to womanhood in this county. After their marriage, Israel Logan and his wife lived for a time in Monroe township, Allen county, Ohio, but the next year, in April, 1858, returned to Putnam county and located on a farm of forty acres in Union township. This farm was mostly wild and wooded, only a portion of it having been cleared, and he presently brought it to a state of cultivation, after which he traded it for another farm, and in the next twenty years making several such trades, all of which proved advantageous to him. In 1878 he moved to Henry county, Ohio, where he bought a farm which he operated until about eight years ago, at which time he retired from the active management of the farm and has since lived a retired and comfortable life, he and Mrs. Logan making their home with their son Finley on the home farm.

To Israel and Maria (Cowan) Logan were born seven children, all of whom, save one, are still living, the sixth child, Kemerer, having died in infancy, the survivors being Frank, the immediate subject of this sketch; Howard, a farmer and stock buyer of Allen county, Ohio; Finley, who manages the home place in Allen county, living with his parents; Americus V., of this county, and his twin sister, Mrs. Alice Rayle, who lives in Henry county, Ohio, and John, who lives in Billings, Montana.

Frank Logan grew to manhood in Union township, this county, was studious in his attention to his school duties in his youth and at the same time learned all there was to know about the life of a farmer, he having determined to follow the agricultural vocation as a life work. For twenty-



three years in the period of his lifetime he taught school in Union township, farming during the summer seasons, and on April 7, 1881, was united in marriage with Miss Maggie E. Boxwell, who was born in Perry township, this county, March 22, 1860, the daughter of Joseph N. and Adeline (Meyers) Boxwell, well-known residents of that township, the former of whom was a native of Maryland and the latter a native of Pennsylvania.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Logan located on a farm in Union township and remained on that place until the year 1888, in which year they bought their present home farm in the same township, and here they have lived ever since, having been quite successful in the management and operation of the same. In addition to this home place, Mr. Logan owns two other farms, having one hundred and ninety-six acres in all, one hundred and twenty-nine acres in Union township and sixty-six and one-half acres in Sugar Creek township.

To the union of Frank and Maggie E. (Boxwell) Logan, five children have been born: Eva A., born August 11, 1882, married Amos Jones, a farmer of Sugar Creek township, this county, and has one child, Genevieve; Joseph Franklin, born May 31, 1887, a Union township farmer, who married Naomi Fruchey and has two children, Margaret and Richard; Alice May, born May 11, 1889, married John T. Thomas, a Union township farmer, and has one child, Franklin David; William Lloyd Garrison, born November 26, 1892, and Lois Margauerite, born April 21, 1900, the latter two living at home with their parents, very popular young people, who help their father and mother in extending the generous hospitalities of the Logan home.

In addition to giving prudent attention to the personal considerations of his farm, Mr. Logan, as stated in the introduction to this biography, has found time for much public service, his interest in and devotion to the common weal having prompted him to accept several offices of trust and responsibility, in the administration of the affairs of which offices he always has had an eye single to the public good and has given much satisfaction to his local constituency. In his twenty years' service as justice of the peace, his wise counsels often have averted expensive and unnecessary litigation among neighbors and the judgments of his court rarely have been questioned to the point of taking an appeal to a higher court. In the office of land appraiser and as assessor of his township for five terms, he, likewise, has served the public faithfully and well, and in twenty years of service as president of the local school board he has brought the schools of Union

township to a state of excellence second to none in the county, a measure of service for which the people of that township are ever grateful and which has been appreciated there accordingly. In view of all this unselfish devotion to the public welfare, it was taken for granted when he received the nomination for county commissioner from his district at the last Democratic county convention, that he would be elected and this conclusion was amply verified when the returns came in, his period of office beginning with the September term of the board, in 1915.

In church work, Mr. Logan has proved his ability for service, both he and Mrs. Logan being devoted and influential members of the Maple Grove Christian church, the congregation of which Mr. Logan long has served as trustee and clerk as well as having been closely identified with the work of the Sunday school. Mr. and Mrs. Logan and their family are very popular in their neighborhood, their activity in all local good works having endeared them to all in that part of the county, and they are very properly regarded as among the leaders in all movements having the general welfare in consideration. By keen executive perception and careful attention to the details of his business, Mr. Logan has accumulated a fair share of this world's goods and has a fine farm and a pleasant home. He is deeply interested in progressive up-to-date methods of farming and ever is seeking to elevate the standard of farming in his locality, at the same time being a consistent "booster" for all proper township improvements. He is a man of sterling character, a friend of all and "once a friend, always a friend," and has been an undoubted factor for great good in his community, his influence extending beyond the mere local confines of his township. A lover of the truth, he has no use for anyone who is not sincere and is a foe of all shams, in whatever guise they may appear.

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#### CLYDE M. FLETCHER.

Perseverance and sterling worth are almost always sure to win conspicuous recognition in any locality. Clyde M. Fletcher has been a resident of Putnam county, Ohio, for several years, and his career is a splendid example of the successful, self-made man, who not only deserves the confidence reposed in him by his neighbors, but who also possesses the necessary energy and integrity fitting him to discharge the duties of a private citizen.

He is a man of vigorous mentality and strong moral fiber and has made a signal success.

Clyde M. Fletcher was born in 1881 in Hancock county, Ohio, and is a son of Victor and Annetta (Orrem) Fletcher. He was fifteen years of age when his parents moved to near Melrose, Paulding county, Ohio, and in 1889 moved to Continental, where they still reside.

In 1907 Mr. Fletcher married Ella S. Beard, the daughter of John Beard. In 1908 he and his wife removed to a farm belonging to Mrs. Fletcher's father, where they have since lived. Mr. Fletcher is engaged in general farming, and is also a handy man at several trades, including that of paper hanging, painting, etc.

Victor Fletcher, the father of Clyde M. Fletcher, was born, May 5, 1852, in Hancock county, Ohio, the son of Charles and Catherine (Brown) Fletcher. Charles Fletcher was born in 1810 in Adams county, Pennsylvania, near Gettysburg, while his wife, Catherine Brown, was born in Stark county, Ohio, in 1828, and was first married to Philander Emerson. She came with him to Hancock county, Ohio, where he entered government land, and here his death occurred. Charles Fletcher was first married to Jane Boyd, and moved to Hancock county about 1833. He was a lifelong farmer, and after the death of his first wife, he married Mrs. Emerson, and they spent the remainder of their lives on the farm. Victor Fletcher grew up on the farm in Hancock county. He was married on October 4, 1878, to Annetta Orrem, who was born in 1855, in Hancock county, Ohio, and was a daughter of Henry Y. and Hester (Young) Orrem. Henry Y. Orrem was born in Knox county, Ohio, and was a son of Samuel and Rhoda Ann (Young) Orrem. It is believed that the Orrem family is of Spanish descent. When Annetta Orrem was a young woman, her parents moved to about three miles southeast of Leipsic, and later moved to Leipsic, where she lived when she married Mr. Fletcher.

In the spring following his marriage, Victor Fletcher moved to Hancock county, and lived there for about twelve years. He then moved to near Melrose, in Paulding county, and lived there until December, 1897, and finally moved to Continental, where he has since lived.

Victor Fletcher and wife are the parents of seven children: Izora, the wife of Lemuel S. Rice, lives in Kalamazoo, Michigan; Clyde M., the immediate subject of this review; Henrietta, the wife of A. S. Saegers, and died at the birth of her second child; Jessie May, the wife of O. D. Zoll, lives in Cleveland, Ohio; Clarence Edward, who died at the age of ten years; Florence Edith, the twin sister of Clarence E., is the widow of Lewis Brown,

and lives with her father in Continental; Donna Marie, who died at the age of nineteen months.

Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher belong to the United Brethren church.

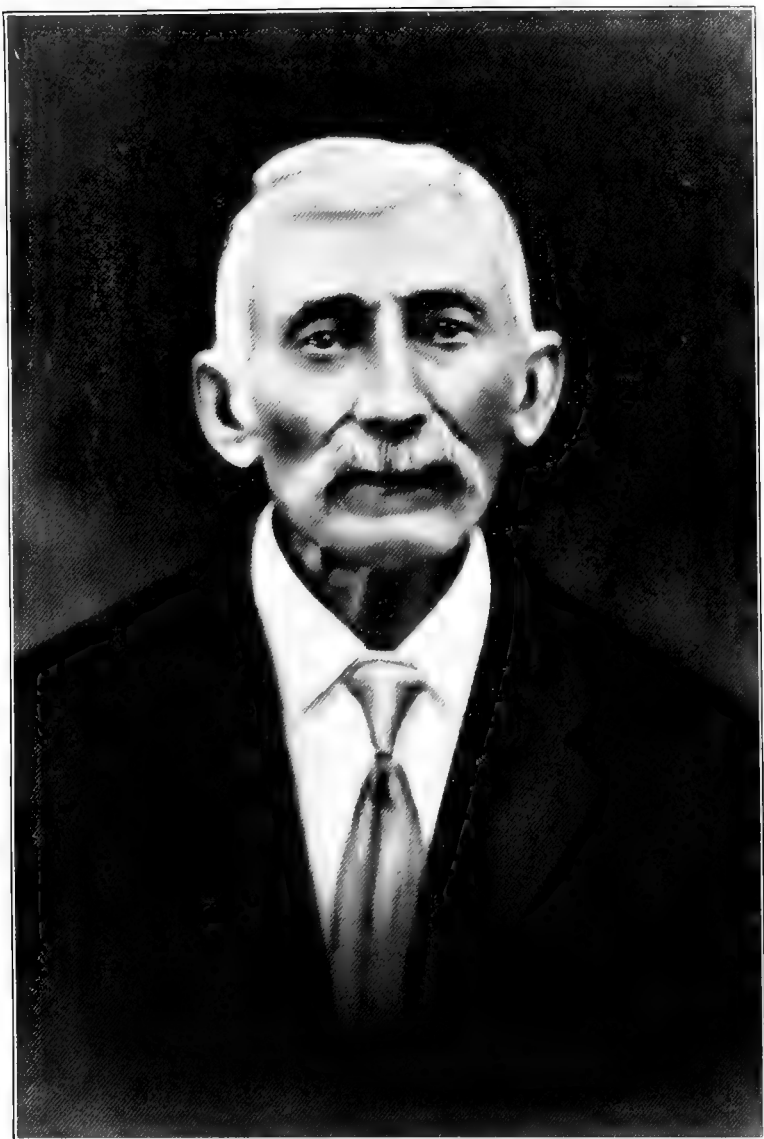
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### HERMAN SCHUBERT.

The success of men in business, or in any vocation, depends upon character as well as upon knowledge. In every community some men are known by their upright lives, strong common sense and moral worth. Their neighbors respect them, the younger generation heed their example and when they wrap the drapery of their couches about them and lie down to pleasant dreams, posterity listens with reverence to the story of their quiet and useful lives. Among such men of a past generation in Ohio was Herman Schubert, not only a progressive man of affairs, but successful in material pursuits and a man of modest and unassuming demeanor, a fine type of the reliable, self-made American, a friend to the poor, charitable to the faults of his neighbors and always active in support of laudable public enterprises. The late Herman Schubert was proud of his residence in Putnam county and the grand state of Ohio, and zealous for their progress and prosperity. He was a man who, in every respect, merited the high esteem in which he was universally held.

The late Herman Schubert was born on December 28, 1839, in Crawford county, Ohio, and died on December 31, 1914. He was the son of John Casper and Christiana (Corfmann) Schubert, the former a native of Saxony, who came to America in 1833, and settled in Crawford county, where Herman Schubert was born. Christiana Schubert was a native of Saxony, also. Most of their children were born in the old country. After coming to America, they lived in Crawford county for eight years, leaving there in 1841, and moving to Seneca county, Ohio. They lived here for a number of years. John Schubert was a farmer. He died in 1881, at the age of ninety years. His wife died about 1868. John Casper and Christiana Schubert had eight children, of whom Herman was next to the youngest. All of the children, with the exception of Mrs. Lucinda Meyers, who lives in Highland township, Defiance county, are deceased. They were Leander, Osmuth, Matilda, August, Malina, Herman and Sarah.

Herman Schubert grew up in Seneca county, Ohio, and was married there on September 29, 1887, to Susan Stahl, a native of Seneca county,



HERMAN SCHUBERT.



born in 1850, the daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Putnam) Stahl, natives of Pennsylvania and Wayne county, Ohio, respectively. Samuel Stahl moved to Wyandot county, Ohio, when a lad. His wife moved to that county when about ten years of age. Both grew up in this county and lived there until 1857, when they moved to Seneca county, Ohio. Here they spent their remaining days. To Mr. and Mrs. Herman Schubert, three children were born, Bertie C., who lives at home; Louis Herman, who died in infancy; and Stella L., who lives at home.

Shortly after his marriage, Herman Schubert moved to MacMinn county, Tennessee, near Athens, and lived here until 1901, coming to Putnam county at that time. He built a splendid residence in 1901, and owned one hundred and forty-four acres at the time of his death. Twenty-four acres of this land was covered by natural timber. It was all located in Putnam county. Herman Schubert was a life-long farmer, and during the last few years of his life, he made a specialty of thoroughbred Jersey cattle.

Herman Schubert was not a member of any lodge, at the time of his death. At one time he belonged to the Grange and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Two years before his marriage, he served as trustee in Defiance county, Ohio. He was a member of the Christian church, but was reared a Lutheran. Since there was no church in Putnam county, he joined the Methodist church at Sharon, Ohio, and was very active in Sunday school work. He was a trustee of this church for a long time while living in Putnam county, and was superintendent of the Sunday school while living in Tennessee. Herman Schubert was a splendid farmer, as his well-improved and carefully-kept farm shows. His eldest son and daughter live at home.

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#### HENRY B. RUHE.

The Ruhe family has been represented in this county since the year 1833, in which year the progenitor of Henry B. came to America, joining the large colony of Germans which settled in the Glandorf neighborhood, about that time.

Henry B. Ruhe was born near the town of Glandorf, in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, on June 8, 1881, the son of Henry W. and Barbara (Koenig) Ruhe, the former of whom was born in the same town-

ship in the year 1849, the son of Gerhardt Joseph and Mary Anna (Musing) Ruhe, both of whom were natives of Germany. Barbara Koenig was born in Liberty township, the daughter of Charles and Matilda (Kastel) Koenig, both of whom were natives of Bavaria.

Gerhardt Joseph Ruhe, the first of the name in this section of Ohio, was born in Saarbeck, Germany, on November 2, 1812, and died in this county on December 29, 1878, at the age of sixty-six years. Following his marriage to Mary Anna Musing in the old country, he came to America and located on a farm in Ottawa township, this county, entering the same from the government at a time when the land thereabout was an unbroken wilderness, through which Indians and the wild creatures of the forest still roamed at will. The original tract entered by Mr. Ruhe was eighty acres. Upon clearing this and bringing it to a state of cultivation, he bought another eighty acres adjoining and there he spent the rest of his life, being numbered among the most progressive and influential men of that neighborhood in his day.

To Gerhardt Joseph and Mary Anna (Musing) Ruhe were born twelve children, of whom six grew to maturity, as follow: Barney, Mrs. Theresia Hinken, Mrs. Josephine Knueve, deceased; Henry William, Mrs. Katherine Wortkoetter and Anthony B.

Henry William Ruhe grew to manhood on the paternal farm in Ottawa township, and on February 7, 1877, was united in marriage with Barbara Koenig, the daughter of a pioneer family of Liberty township, her parents having come here early in the establishment of the German colony in the Glandorf section. To this union there were born eight children, as follow: Joseph, living in Pleasant township, who married Veronica Ricker and has five children, Clara, George, William, Albert and Paul; Mary Anna, who married Henry Kleman and lives northeast of Ottawa; Henry B., of whom this narrative immediately treats; John, who is unmarried and lives in Missouri; Charles, living in Pleasant township, married Emma Ricker and has one child, a son, Rudolph; Josephine, who married Joseph Kleman, of Pleasant township, and has three children, Peter, Alexander and Sylvester; Theresia, who married John Segar and lives in Pleasant township, and Rosa, unmarried, who lives at home.

The mother of the above children died on June 4, 1897, and on June 20, 1898, Henry W. Ruhe married, secondly, Mrs. Mary Anna (Fredericks) Fortman, the widow of Henry Fortman, and to this union there were born two children, Maria Anna, who married Isaac McDowell and lives in the town



of Continental, this county, and a son, who died in early infancy. Henry W. Ruhe is still living on the farm on which he was born in Ottawa township, the farm which his grandfather entered from the government.

Henry B. Ruhe was reared on his father's farm in Ottawa township, receiving such scholastic advantages as the schools of his neighborhood offered, and there he grew to manhood, being carefully trained in the ways of farming. On May 1, 1906, he was united in marriage with Johanna Bensman, who also was born in Ottawa township, and two days later moved onto the farm on which they are now living in Monroe township, this county, four and one-half miles northwest of the town of Continental.

Johanna Bensman is the daughter of George and Anna Mary (Heising) Bensman, both of whom were born in the Glandorf neighborhood in Ottawa township, members of pioneer families of that section. George Bensman was born in 1851 and died on May 6, 1892, and his wife was born on June 24, 1852, and died on November 28, 1891. Mr. Bensman was reared a farmer and remained on the home farm until he attained manhood, when he moved to Greensburg, where he bought a farm and spent the rest of his life there. Mrs. Ruhe grew to womanhood in Greensburg township and after the death of her parents made her home with the family of Andrew Gerde-man, where she remained until her marriage. Her parents had four children besides herself, as follow: Mrs. Mary Swigart, of Perry township, this county; Mrs. Veronica Barlarger, of Greensburg township; William, who also lives in Greensburg township, and one who died in infancy.

To Henry B. and Johanna (Bensman) Ruhe have been born three children, Alexander, Marcella and Lucinda, lively young people, who make merry the pleasant home of their devoted parents.

Upon acquiring his farm in 1906, Mr. Ruhe faced the considerable task of clearing the larger part of it ready for cultivation. This, however, he has accomplished and it all is cleared with the exception of about three acres of woodland which he has retained. He has drained and fenced the place in an excellent manner. He built his home in 1906 and built a new barn in 1914. He is a farmer of progressive ideas and these are reflected in the general appointments of his farm, which is one of the best-kept places in his neighborhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Ruhe and their family are members of the Catholic church at Continental and are devoted supporters of the best interests of the parish. Mr. Ruhe is a Democrat and takes a good citizen's interest in politics, being a strong supporter of all measures designed to advance the

cause of good government. He has never been included in the office-seeking class, however, being content to devote his best endeavors to his well-kept farm and to the comfort and happiness of his family. He is a man of pleasing reserve of manner, industrious and thrifty, a good farmer and a credit to the citizenship of Monroe township, an indulgent father, a kind husband and an excellent neighbor, well liked and popular throughout that whole section of the county.

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#### FRANKLIN GRANT.

A great French statesman once asked James Russell Lowell how long this republic could endure, and he replied, "So long as America is true to the principles of her founders." Nothing but high civic and political ideals heroically contended for, can hold our beloved republic on its upward way. "Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." To preserve this vision fresh and untarnished is the mission of all good citizens, a noble volunteer band whose call transcends all narrow sectional boundaries and geographical divisions. The clock has struck the hour so earnestly longed for by Christopher Gadsen when there shall be "no East or West nor North or South, but all of us Americans."

America is in the making. The blending of her various peoples into one homogeneous whole, to work out the vast problems of civilization both for herself and the entire world, is the immediate task before us. The descendants of the original settlers will be expected to stand foremost among the many, in projecting the activities of the future. There are many descendants of this country's original settlers who are counted among the leaders in the social and civic life of Putnam county, among whom is the gentleman whose name is noted above, and the biographer finds pleasure in asking the attention of the reader to a few points relating to his honorable ancestry and to his part in the affairs of this county and the township, in which his family so long have been leaders.

Franklin Grant, one of the best-known farmers and most reputable citizens of Monroe township, Putnam county, was born in that township on February 25, 1860, the son of John and Rebecca (Sanford) Grant, the former of whom was a native of Jefferson county, Ohio, born July 11, 1822, and the latter of whom was a native of Sandusky county, Ohio.

John Grant, who at the time of his death was the oldest pioneer and farmer of Monroe township, was of Scottish descent. His grandfather, who

also was named John, was a native of New Jersey, of old Colonial stock, who moved from New Jersey to Washington county, Pennsylvania, later coming to Ohio, where he settled in Starke county. There he underwent all the vicissitudes of frontier life, but eventually developed a farm of one hundred and sixty acres from the forest, on which he passed the remainder of his life. Before leaving Washington county, Pennsylvania, he had married a Miss Cosner, who, with him, died in the faith of the Presbyterian church. The elder John Grant was a man of splendid physique and, like most powerfully-built men, possessed a kindly and admirable disposition. In politics he was a Jacksonian Democrat.

David Grant, son of the elder John Grant, was reared a farmer in Washington county, Pennsylvania, and there married Rebecca Rape, to which union there were born eleven children, of whom only one now survives, the venerable Mrs. Narcissia Sherrard, who lives two miles west of Fremont, Ohio, at the age of eighty-three years. The other children of this union were: Mary A., John, father of the immediate subject of this sketch; Joseph, Harriet, David, Letitia, Eunice, Rebecca, Runie and Jeremiah.

David Grant moved from Pennsylvania with his family into Ohio and resided for four years on a farm in Jefferson county, then moving to Sandusky county, where he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Fremont, taking possession of it before an ax had been struck in the wilderness of woods which covered it. There he built a log cabin for the shelter of his family and entered upon the strenuous task of clearing the place for cultivation, eventually bringing forth a farm that was both productive and profitable. David Grant became one of the most prominent residents of Sandusky county, was a leader in the local politics of the Democratic party and a pillar in the Methodist church. He was one of the most prosperous men in his neighborhood and possessed a large influence in the direction of the affairs of the community.

Amid pioneer conditions such as above described, John Grant, son of David, grew to manhood. He was a sturdy, vigorous youth and, in addition to learning all the ways of the pioneer farmer's life, obtained an excellent rudimentary education in the schools that were started by subscription in that section. He early developed excellent business traits and in his young manhood made a good start dealing in live stock. On April 7, 1850, John Grant was united in marriage with Rebecca Sanford, who was born in Seneca county, Ohio, the daughter of John and Rebecca (Cassidy) Sanford, and in that year moved to Putnam county, locating on the farm on

which he spent the rest of his life, in Monroe township. At the time he settled there, there were but two spots in the entire township that had been cleared, and bear, deer and other game abounded, as well as wolves and panthers. Eventually, amid all the privations of frontier life, he wrested from the forest a home that was one of the best in Putnam county in the later years of its owner's life.

John Grant was a patriotic Unionist and, when the Civil War broke out, he volunteered in defense of the national flag, but his services were declined on account of disability. He was an ardent Republican and ever took a deep interest in the political affairs of Putnam county. He served his township faithfully and well in the capacity of township trustee and township supervisor and for nearly thirty years served as township treasurer. He and his wife were ardent members of the Methodist church and did very much toward the permanent establishment of that church in their neighborhood in the early days, being very generous contributors to all the causes which it represented. He donated the ground on which the Sharon church was built and contributed five hundred dollars toward the erection of that church building. He was a man of fine and noble traits and was widely known throughout the county for his sterling character, honesty and sincerity of life. He was a good farmer and not only made a competence for himself, but was able to assist his children when the time came for them to make a start in life, and was generous in all his dealings with his fellow men.

To John and Rebecca (Sanford) Grant were born ten children, two of whom died in infancy, the others being as follow: David, who died on December 13, 1910; John, who died on January 27, 1865; George, who died on March 8, 1861; Franklin, the immediate subject of this biographical sketch; Joseph, who lives at Armuchee, Georgia; Mrs. Electa Pool, who died in 1892; Mrs. Alice Pool, who died in 1894, and Lewis, who is living on the original home farm in Monroe township, Putnam county, and is known as one of the prosperous and progressive farmers of that neighborhood. The mother of the above children died on July 23, 1893, and John Grant married, secondly, on April 11, 1894, Elizabeth Jones, who died on January 2, 1913, without issue. John Grant died on February 15, 1915, at the age of ninety-two years, seven months and four days, having for many years done well his part in the upbuilding of the community, of which he was so honored and respected a member. For three years or more before his death, he had been more or less retired from the active duties of the farm, his youngest son, Lewis, having taken over the management of the home place.

Franklin Grant was reared on the paternal farm and received a very good common school education near his early home, being thus fully qualified with

the book learning necessary for the practical affairs of a business life, as far as it pertains to the successful prosecution of farming and the transactions connected therewith. Until his marriage in 1880, Mr. Grant remained on the home farm and after that happy event made his residence in Defiance county, Ohio, where he remained for four years, at the end of which time he returned to Putnam county and settled on his present farm in Monroe township. Here he erected a fine dwelling, built a good, substantial barn and suitable outbuildings, and otherwise improved it with thorough tiling and judicious cultivation, soon having one of the best moderate-sized farms in the township. This farm consists of a fraction over seventy-six acres, on which general farming is judiciously mixed with stock raising, Mr. Grant being an extensive breeder of hogs, the profit from which he finds one of the most remunerative phases of the farm life. He is a good farmer and keeps his place in admirable condition.

On December 26, 1880, Franklin Grant was united in marriage with Jannettie Thornton, who was born in Fayette county, Ohio, on May 22, 1862, a daughter of David and Sarah (Fifer) Thornton, who spent their last days in the city of Ottawa; the death of the former occurring on June 9, 1909, his wife having predeceased him in 1905.

To Franklin and Jannettie (Thornton) Grant have been born eight children, as follow: Orpha V., who married Franklin Shubert and lives in Defiance county, Ohio; Lloyd Elmer, who lives in Michigan, married Vesta Reynolds and has four children, Homer, Ray, Theodore and Franklin; Inis Mabel, who married Leonard Kilpatrick, of Michigan, and has three children, Raymond, Marie and Irene; Edwin Harrison, a prosperous farmer in Paulding county, Ohio, who married Iva Gordon and has two children, Gladys and Athal Leverine; Otto Earl, who married Voe Ice and lives on the home farm with his parents; Chloe B., who married Lee Barringer, of Fostoria, Ohio, and had two children, Bernard, and Donald, deceased; Lester, at home, and one child who died in infancy.

Mr. Grant is a Republican and has always taken an active part in the campaigns of that party in Monroe township, his counsels being regarded as valuable by the party managers. He was appointed trustee of Monroe township in April, 1914, and served since that time. During the existence of the Patrons of Husbandry in this section of the state, he was an earnest worker in that association of farmers and for a long time was master of his local grange. Mr. Grant and his wife are earnestly concerned in all movements looking to the advancement of conditions in the social and civic life of the community and are regarded as among the leaders in that neighborhood, where they are both held in the highest esteem by all.

## NATHAN C. SHIRLEY.

Examples that impress force of character upon all who study them, are worthy of record. By a few general observations may be conveyed some idea of the characteristics and worthy career of Nathan C. Shirley, who is now living in Monroe township, Putnam county, Ohio, having, through his industry and perseverance, accumulated a competency. He has pursued the even tenor of his way in a quiet and unostentatious manner, which never courts publicity, attending strictly to his own affairs, doing the right as he understands it, and keeping his conscience void of offense toward God and man. It is not a matter of wonderment that the elements of a substantial and practical nature, which unite in his composition, should win him a conspicuous place in his community, when we learn that he comes of a sterling family, a family that believed, not only in keeping busy along legitimate lines of endeavor, but also in living up to the highest standards of citizenship in every respect.

Nathan C. Shirley was born on December 1, 1862, in Perry township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Philip and Elizabeth (Prowant) Shirley.

Philip Shirley was a native of Ross county, Ohio, born in February, 1820, and a son of Nathan and Mary (Minear) Shirley. Nathan Shirley was born in Burks county, Pennsylvania, in 1800, and left Pennsylvania, coming to Ohio during his boyhood days. His parents were Robert and Mary (Gilbert) Shirley, who were natives of Pennsylvania, also. They settled in Ross county, where they farmed, but later moved to Defiance county. He farmed in Ross county for a time and removed to Defiance with his family in 1825. After his marriage, he made a trip to New Orleans by flatboat down the Mississippi river with flour, pork and shoes, and sold the outfit and boat, returning to Portsmouth, Ohio, from here by horseback to his farm in Ross county. He was gone a long time, and waited for increases in the market prices of his commodities. The family made the trip with several other families in covered wagons to Defiance county during the Indian scare, and made use of the blockhouse at Defiance, Ohio, for a while. Nathan was captain of a military company at that place and served as drill master. Robert Shirley died in 1840, in Defiance county, where he is buried, near the west terminal of the upper Auglaize bridge. His wife died there also. At the time they first came to Defiance county, Robert Shirley and his family spent some time in the blockhouse at Defiance. The



MR. AND MRS. NATHAN SHIRLEY.





Indians were not thoroughly pacified, and there was continual fear of uprising. This caused much unrest among the settlers. Robert was among the early settlers, a brave and courageous man, who lent a willing hand in all the work of the little community. In his later years, Robert Shirley conducted a tavern at Defiance, Ohio. He was largely identified with the history of the town, having been in charge of the canal at that point. He was a hard worker, a man of sterling character, and suffered all the privations incident to the early pioneer life. He experienced many sorrows and also much happiness.

Nathan Shirley was reared a farmer, and this he followed to his death, in 1871, at Junction, Paulding county, Ohio. His wife died about 1850. After her death, Nathan was again married to a widow, Mrs. Hankins, who survived him a number of years, and died in 1885. Nathan also experience the hardships of pioneer life, and did his share for the uplift of the county. Philip Shirley, the father of the subject, grew up in Defiance county, being only five years old when he was brought to the county with his parents. He grew up on the homestead farm, and located at the Power dam, where his father, Nathan, owned two farms. He married Eilzabeth Prowant, daughter of Christian and Catherine (Gable) Prowant, who was born in Wayne county, Ohio, and who came with her parents to Putnam county about 1834, where she grew to womanhood and married. She was born on June 5, 1829, and died on February 13, 1914, at the age of eighty-four years, eight months and eight days. Philip Shirley came to Putnam county, Ohio, and settled in Perry township, about 1847, and was married in 1848. He died in Dupont, Ohio, March 29, 1901, at the age of eighty-one years, one month and twenty-four days. Originally, Philip Shirley owned a farm, upon which the town of Dupont is now situated.

The seven children born to Philip and Elizabeth (Prowant) Shirley were as follow: Mary C.; Clara M., who is Mrs. Remus R. Brown, of DeKalb county, Indiana; Anna E., later Mrs. Thomas Conkle, who died in 1890; Nathan C., the subject of this sketch; Nancy R., now Mrs. Oscar Lamont, of Belmore, Ohio, whose husband is the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad agent at that place; Alice D., now Mrs. George Lafferty, of Edmore, Michigan; Jennie C., who is now Mrs. George Cockrun, of Alluwee, Oklahoma.

Nathan C. Shirley grew up in Perry township, on the homestead farm, and was educated in this township. He spent one year at Delphos, Ohio, in the high school, and one year at the Northern Indiana Normal College, at Valparaiso, Indiana, as a student in the scientific course. He taught school

in Paulding county, Ohio, for two years prior to going to school at Valparaiso, Indiana, and subsequently taught school in Putnam and Paulding counties for thirty-three terms. After his marriage, he removed to a farm of seventy acres, and farmed and taught school in the district near by. He removed to his present farm in Monroe township in the spring of 1898. This farm originally consisted of one hundred and sixty-six acres, but Mr. Shirley now farms one hundred and eighty-six acres.

Nathan C. Shirley was married, August 12, 1888, to Emma Ridenour, who was born in Perry township, Putnam county, January 16, 1863, and who is the daughter of Jacob and Fanny (Fretz) Ridenour. Jacob Ridenour was born in Fayette county, Ohio, and came to Putnam county, Ohio, with his parents when nine years of age. He grew up in Perry township, where he was reared a farmer. He died in 1888, at the age of seventy-two years. He was a Democrat in politics. His wife, Fanny Fretz, was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania. To Mr. and Mrs. Nathan C. Shirley six children have been born: Ashley R. was born on June 22, 1889, she married Preston H. Miles and lives at Syracuse, Indiana, having no children; Hazel I. was born on November 21, 1890; Ross R. was born on October 16, 1892; Mary E., who was born on October 19, 1894, married Floyd Groff, of Monroe township, who lives near the farm of Mr. Shirley; Lynn L. was born on November 18, 1898; Claude L. was born on August 13, 1905.

Nathan C. Shirley has made most of his present farm by his own efforts and has cleared most of the land, and built all of the improvements to the farm. He has a fine barn, with modern appliances and conveniences and a milking machine. He believes strongly in progressive farming. The dimensions of his barn are ninety-six by fifty-six feet on the south side and ninety-six by eighty feet on the north side, and is laid out with six thousand feet of cement floor and twelve hundred feet of cement outside. A silo has been erected, equipped with trackage for cleaning out barn and carrying feed. A cement water tank, with a capacity of fifty barrels, has also been erected.

Mr. Shirley has been township trustee of Perry township for one term, and has also been a member of the board of school directors of Continental city schools three different times. He is not now active. He is a stanch Democrat. He is a member of the United Brethren church at Continental, and has always taken a prominent part in church work. He has held most of the offices in the church, and is now secretary of the congregation, a circuit comprising five churches. He is also actively identified with the Sunday school, is a class leader and a teacher of the young men's and

women's bible class. Nathan C. Shirley is a strong advocate of temperance, and, locally, has been closely identified with the farmers' institute. He was among the organizers of the Continental Farmers' Institute. His wife and family are members of the United Brethren church and take an active interest in the work of the church. Nathan C. Shirley is a man well liked. He bears a high standing for honesty of purpose and integrity in the community where he lives, is a man of strong and fixed convictions, and is frank and open in his dealings with his fellow men. In every way he is entitled to representation in this volume.

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### WILLIAM J. UNTERBRINK.

Putnam county has been fortunate in the number and character of its farmers, those advance agents of civilization and indispensable aids to social and industrial development. The farmer is recognized as an institution and no other agency has done so much for the world in general. This is particularly true of Putnam county. Some men grow tired and others weary of the march, and fall out, but the enterprising, up-to-date farmer who works with a vision never ceases in his endeavor. Of the industrious and self-sacrificing farmers of Putnam county, men who have succeeded in a large way, is William J. Unterbrink, a well-known farmer of Greensburg township. Mr. Unterbrink has contributed financially and otherwise in developing and upbuilding this great county. His work has been unselfish for the most part, but he has managed to acquire a large farm and is one of the most progressive farmers of this section of the state.

William J. Unterbring was born on September 15, 1866, in the house where he now lives, in section 14, Greensburg township. He is the son of Ferdinand and Mary G. (Rotterman) Unterbrink.

Ferdinand Unterbrink was born in the German empire on November 29, 1824, and died in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, July 14, 1895. He was a son of John H. and Maria G. (Meilenbrink) Unterbrink, who settled in this county in 1841. The wife of John H. Unterbrink was Maria G., who was born in Germany on April 30, 1835, and who was the daughter of Herman H. and Maria G. (Kamper) Rotterman, who came to this country in 1838. She was married to Ferdinand Unterbrink in this county on September 7, 1852. Ferdinand Unterbrink was a farmer in Greensburg township who served as a member of the board of county com-

missioners in Putnam county, and who held several other important offices. He had a family of eleven children: Anna M., the wife of Judge Joseph Mersman, of Ottawa; Bernard H., of Cloverdale, Putnam county; Joseph, who lives north of Glandorf, in Ottawa township; Frank F., of Ottawa; Ignatius lives at Riviera, Texas; Maria C., deceased, was the wife of William Schmiedebusch, who resided at Cloverdale; William John, of Greensburg township; John R., of Lima; Herman H., of Ottawa, where he is probation officer; Albert F., of Ottawa, and Amelia M., the wife of Anthony B. Overman, of Ottawa. The mother of these children died on June 28, 1914. Ferdinand Unterbrink was county commissioner six years. Before that he was justice of the peace in Greensburg township for many years. He was one of the most successful farmers in Greensburg township. He came here a very poor man and started in the woods. He worked at digging the canal in the west part of the county at thirty cents a day and boarded himself. He was diligent and a good manager and owned about three hundred and forty acres of land at one time; he owned a number of different farms. His home farm was a beautiful place. He and the family all belong to the St. John's Catholic church. He was a rock-ribbed Democrat in politics. In his youth he taught school in Greensburg township and was one of the first teachers there, making it a point to see that each child learned something every day. He was a very practical man, able to accomplish much where others, perhaps, would have failed. He was a man to whom many came for advice regarding their own personal affairs, as he was regarded as being possessed of keen insight and sound judgment and took a kindly interest in assisting others.

Ferdinand Unterbrink came to America when about seventeen years old with his parents and sisters. Here he bought a farm in section 14, Greensburg township, which was all covered with timber, the country being still new. Here his parents lived and died and here he spent his life, engaged as a life-long farmer. His wife, Mary G. (Rotterman) Unterbrink was born in Germany and came to this country in her infancy, with her parents.

William J. Unterbrink is one of eleven children, eight boys and three girls, as heretofore related. He grew up on the home farm. In 1892 he was married to Magdelina Kracht. She was born in Glandorf, Germany, on April 14, 1825, and is the daughter of William and Anna Catherine (Doepker) Kracht. William Kracht was born in Glandorf, Hanover, Germany, February 28, 1818. He came to Cincinnati when a young man and was there married to Anna Catherine Doepker. She was born in Glandorf, Hanover, and came to America while a girl, after her parents died in Germany. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Kracht lived in Cincinnati for several years.

Subsequently, Mr. and Mrs. Kracht settled about a mile north of Glandorf, and there they lived many years. They spent their last years in Cloverdale.

Mr. and Mrs. William J. Unterbrink for many years have lived on the same farm where Mr. Unterbrink was born. He owns one hundred and eighty acres of fine farming land and has added excellent improvements to the farm, which was formerly owned by his father.

To Mr. and Mrs. William J. Unterbrink five children have been born, as follow: Alfred, on September 15, 1894; Lawrence, on November 9, 1898; Idella, on April 10, 1902; Marcella, on March 9, 1905, and William, on July 4, 1907. The family has a fine country home with beautiful surroundings. There is a private lighting plant in the house. The Unterbrinks are as fine people as are to be found anywhere in Putnam county and all of them are devout members of the Catholic church, at Glandorf.

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#### HARRY E. BRINKMAN.

Harry E. Brinkman is a representative farmer and stock raiser of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, and is known as one of the alert, progressive and successful agriculturists of this favored section of the Buckeye state. In his labors he has not permitted himself to follow in a rut in a blind, apathetic way, but has studied and experimented and thus obtained the maximum returns from his enterprising efforts. At the same time, he has so directed his career at all times as to command the confidence and regard of the people of the community where he lives. He is a man of honorable business methods and advocates strenuously whatever tends to promote the public welfare.

Harry E. Brinkman was born November 11, 1887, on the farm where he now lives in the center of Greensburg township. He is the son of John H. and Philomina (Maag) Brinkman. John H. Brinkman was also born on the same farm in 1848 and is the son of Johann Henry and Mary Gertrude (Rieman) Brinkman. Johann Henry Brinkman was born in Oldenburg, November 8, 1802, and was the son of Johann Rudolph and Elizabeth Johann (Bergmann) Brinkman. He died in 1890 at the age of eighty-seven years and nine months. Johann Henry Brinkman lived in Germany until he was twenty-eight years old and then came to America. He was among the very early settlers in Greensburg township.

Johann Henry Brinkman purchased land in section 15 in an early day when the country was all new, not a road and not even a track having been laid. A trail was blazed to Glandorf settlement and to other neighboring points and at night hickory bark torches were carried. He started with a most primitive cabin and did not have a fireplace. There was no floor and the fire was built in a hole in the middle of the cabin. There was no drainage and at times water flooded the cabin. It was not unusual on arising in the morning to find their wooden shoes floating and the fire drowned out. Although it was necessary to endure many hardships, yet these early pioneers bore them cheerfully because their work meant a home for them and their children. In the old country, the earnings only went to enrich the land-owners. Here, Johann Henry Brinkman spent his life, clearing the land and rearing his family. His wife was born, January 22, 1829, in Osna-bruck, Germany. She came to America with her parents when she was three years old. She was the daughter of John H. and Mary Elizabeth (Phone) Rieman, who came to America in 1832 and lived at Cincinnati a few years, when they came to Glandorf. They purchased a farm on the northwest edge of Ottawa township, west of Glandorf. There Mary Gertrude Rieman grew to womanhood and was married.

On the farm, in section 15, John Henry Brinkman grew up among the pioneers and here was married on October 28, 1872, to Philmonia May Mag. She was born one miles west of Glandorf church on May 14, 1851, and was the daughter of Theodore and Catherine (Purs) Maag. Theodore Maag was born in Glandorf, Hanover, Germany, in May, 1807, and grew up there. When a young man he came to Cincinnati and was there married to Catherine Purs, who was born in Glandorf, Hanover, December 8, 1813. She came to America at the age of twenty-two and went immediately to Cincinnati. At the age of twenty-three she was married to Theodore Maag. Two years later they moved to the west edge of Ottawa township and in 1838 settled a mile west of Glandorf in the new country, where timber covered the land and wild animals abounded.

Theodore Maag was away from home much of the time working on the canal. His wife and two babies were compelled to stay alone, while the Indians roamed nearby through the woods.

After John H. Brinkman and wife were married they lived on the Brinkman farm. He was a lifelong farmer and very successful. He managed to acquire a good farm and owned two hundred and forty acres. He was public spirited and held various township offices at different times. He be-

gan life with eighty acres and after his father's death, bought his sister's interest in his father's farm of one hundred and sixty acres. John H. Brinkman was an able farmer and could plow a long furrow as straight as a rule, having a good eye for distance and levels. He raised thoroughbred cattle, hogs and sheep, and took great interest in his live stock. He was known by all as a good neighbor, a man of sound judgment and reliable. He was a man of much value to his community. His traits have been largely transmitted to his son, the subject of this sketch, who is like his father and one of the well-known citizens of this township. John H. Brinkman died on January 16, 1910, leaving a widow and two sons. A daughter, Mary Frances, died at the age of sixteen. The two sons are Frank and Harry, both of whom live on the home farm with their mother. Harry E. Brinkman manages the farm and since his father's death has added improvements to the place.

Herry E. Brinkman was married on August 12, 1913, to Mary Elizabeth Rose. She was born at Fort Jennings, Putnam county, and is the daughter of Alton and Bernardine (Pavel) Rose. Anton Rose was born at Ottoville, Putnam county, December 25, 1861, the son of Adolph and Catherine (Mersman) Rose. Adolph Rose came from Germany and owned a farm on the canal not far from Ottoville. Later, he moved to Fort Jennings. Catherine Mersman was from Glandorf, Germany, and came to this country at the age of eight years. Anton Rose was an engineer at Fort Jennings. Three years ago he moved to Delphos, where he now lives. His wife was born two and one-half miles south of Ottoville, along the canal, and was the daughter of Henry Pavel and wife.

Mary Elizabeth Rose grew up at Fort Jennings, where she lived until she was seventeen years old; since that time she has lived in Greensburg township. To Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Brinkman one son, Cornelius Anton Johann, was born on February 2, 1914.

Harry E. Brinkman is secretary of the Farmers Mutual Telephone Company. The family all belong to the Catholic church at Glandorf and are faithful to their religion. The family are kind and hospitable and well liked by all who know them.

It is a pleasure to see the live stock which Mr. Brinkman raises. It is not only good stock but is well kept. He uses the very latest methods in his farm management and is in every respect a truly progressive farmer. He is one of the leading citizens of Putnam county and a man whom one does not soon forget.

## SANFORD SMITH.

The business of farming has been revolutionized within the last fifty years and the farmer of today knows few of the disadvantages which surrounded pioneer farmers of Ohio. Scores of inventions have been put on the market which enable the farmer to lead a life of ease as compared with the arduous labors which his father had to undergo. The result is that an ever-increasing number of our best young men are remaining on the farm in preference to trying their fortunes in the cities. The farmer is certainly the most independent man of the country, and all other professions and occupations must bow to him. Ohio is known throughout the length and breadth of the country as one of the best agricultural states in the union, and Putnam county ranks with the best farming sections of the state. Putnam county farmers are not to be excelled by any other county, and among its many excellent farmers no one occupies a more prominent place than Sanford Smith, the subject of this review. The ancestral history of Sanford Smith has been intimately identified with the pioneer annals of Putnam county and the state of Ohio.

Sanford Smith is the son of Adam and Margaret (Shouse) Smith, and was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, April 16, 1857. Adam Smith was the son of Robert Smith, a native of Scotland, who immigrated to America with his brother, William. They settled in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and there were tailors. Robert Smith married Elizabeth Little, a native of Somerset county, and the daughter of Adam and Mary Little. After three children had been born, they removed to Harrison county, Ohio, in 1826, and subsequently, removed to Tuscarawas county, where they died. Robert Smith was an old-line Whig. He and his wife were stanch members of the Presbyterian church. They had eight children, Adam, Leonard, Mary A., Thomas, John, Robert B., Harvey and David.

Adam Smith, the father of Sanford, was born on June 20, 1821, in Somerset county and came with his parents to Ohio. He also moved with his parents to Carroll county, Ohio, and in this county was married to Margaret Shouse, in 1844. She was born on October 3, 1820, and was the daughter of Barnard and Rachel (Palmer) Shouse, the former a native of Pennsylvania, who migrated to Carroll county at the age of sixteen years and was a school teacher there. Barnard Shouse was an old-line Whig and he and his family were members of the Presbyterian church. Subsequently, they moved to Decatur county, Indiana, where they died.

Sanford Smith was one of ten children born to his parents. The





RESIDENCE OF SANFORD SMITH.



others were Sylvester, deceased; Mary E., deceased; William C.; Salathiel L.; Arthur L.; Nettie J., the wife of J. C. M. Doenges; Lorenzo; Madison S. and Edson E., deceased. Lorenzo is the twin brother of Sanford. Adam and Margaret Smith resided in Carroll county two years and then removed to Tuscarawas county, where they lived until 1859, when they moved to Hancock county. They moved to Putnam county in 1860.

Mrs. Margaret Smith died on July 23, 1907, at the age of eighty seven years. Her death occurred on the homestead farm, in Monroe township. The tract of land comprises two hundred and forty acres and, it was here also, that Adam Smith died on November 17, 1880. Adam and Margaret Smith were members of the Methodist church and influential citizens throughout their lives in the history of Putnam county.

Sanford Smith remained on the homestead farm with his mother after the death of his father, until December 14, 1909, when he was married to Mrs. Zella D. Hager, the daughter of Jacob and Nancy E. (Hutchinson) Dickey. The family history of Mrs. Smith will be found in the sketch of S. M. Dickey, which appears elsewhere in this volume.

To Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Smith no children have been born. Throughout his life, Mr. Smith has been an ardent member of the Republican party and influential locally in the councils of his party. He now has a good farm of one hundred and forty-five acres, having begun with forty acres, deeded to him by his mother. Sanford Smith is a quiet, unassuming man, congenial with his neighbors and favorably known in this locality.

Mrs. Smith taught school for twelve years in Paulding county, Ohio. She taught her first year when but sixteen years of age.

Mrs. Smith has two daughters by her first marriage, Ethel C., now the wife of E. D. Harpster, who lives near Continental, Ohio; Beatrice C., wife of Charles W. Mansfield, of Defiance, Ohio, he being the only son of Lot W. and Lottie R. (Doenges) Mansfield.

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### THOMAS C. HIPKINS.

One of the most highly esteemed citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, is Thomas C. Hipkins, who was born at Gilboa, Putnam county, Ohio, September 3, 1850. He is a son of Thomas H. B. and Margaret (Fishel) Hipkins, and one of five children born to his parents. The other children are as follow: Christian Rudy, born on August 20, 1839, deceased; Luceria, born on

May 4, 1843, deceased; Winfield Scott, born on October 15, 1847, deceased, and Harriett V., of Ottawa. All of the three sons served in the Civil War.

Thomas H. B. Hipkins was born at Prospect Hill, Harford county, Maryland, on January 28, 1813, and located in Putnam county in 1841. His father, Charles G. Hipkins, died in 1817, and his mother, Elizabeth, passed away in 1832. Thomas H. B. Hipkins was married in Hancock county, Ohio, on September 10, 1838, to Margaret, the daughter of John and Catherine Fishel. Mr. Fishel died in 1845 and his wife passed away in 1821. Margaret Fishel was born in Franklin county, Ohio, on June 17, 1817, and died in 1890. He was engaged in the mercantile business in Gilboa, Putnam county, in 1845, and removed his store to Ottawa in 1856, where he continued in business until his death, in 1880.

After the death of Thomas H. B. Hipkins in 1880, his sons, Winfield S. and Thomas Corwin, continued the business in partnership, until Winfield S. died in 1907. For the next five years Thomas C. continued alone, after which he took his son, W. S., in with him as a partner, and they are now conducting the same line of business which was established in 1845, in this county.

Thomas C. Hipkins enlisted in the Civil War in October, 1864, as a member of Company K, One Hundred and Eighty-second Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was only one month past his fourteenth birthday at the time of his enlistment, which entitles him to the honor of being one of the youngest soldiers in the state to enlist in the war. He served until he was mustered out at Nashville in July, 1865. After he returned from the Civil War, he attended Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware, Ohio, for one year. He then obtained a position in the St. Louis branch of the A. T. Stewart Dry Goods Company. During the year he was in St. Louis, he received a very broad training in general mercantile affairs. He then returned to his home in Ottawa, Ohio, and he and his brother, Winfield S., took charge of their father's store. The brothers continued in partnership until the death of Winfield S.

Mr. Hipkins was married in 1884 to Mrs. Rhoda Belle (Pitney) Woodruff, the daughter of Abijah and Rachel (Wheeler) Pitney. Mrs. Hipkins came to Putnam county with her parents, who located in Blanchard township, and spent the remainder of their lives there on a farm. She married James Woodruff, who died within sixty days after their marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Hipkins have five children: Eva, who is the wife of John Schafer, Jr., of Cleveland, Ohio, and has two children, Virginia and John Thomas; Margaret is a teacher in the kindergarten schools of Spring City, Utah; Winfield Scott, who is a partner with his father in the dry goods business in Ottawa; Ruth,

who is a nurse in the Lutheran hospital at Cleveland; Thomas C., Jr., who is still attending school, and is a wholesale dealer in eggs. One daughter, Mary, died at the age of eleven months.

Mr. and Mrs. Hipkins and all of the children belong to the Methodist Episcopal church and all are active workers in the church and Sunday school. Mr. Hipkins is a trustee of the church and also a member of the board of stewards. His fraternal connections are with the Free and Accepted Masons.

For more than seventy years the Hipkins store has stood in the front rank of the mercantile establishments of Putnam county, and with the young blood infused into it, in the young junior partner, the firm may reasonably expect to exist long after its first century birthday.

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### JOHN BEARD.

To write the personal records of men who have raised themselves from humble circumstances to positions of responsibility and trust in the community, is no ordinary pleasure. Self-made men, men who have achieved success by reason of their personal qualities, and left the impress of their individuality upon the business growth of their place of residence, affect for good, such institutions as are embraced in the sphere of their usefulness. Unwittingly, perhaps, they build monuments more enduring than marble obelisk or granite shaft. One of the men, who is a well-known farmer of Greensburg township, who falls in this class is John Beard.

Mr. Beard was born in 1830, in Fairfield county, Ohio. He is the son of John Beard, Sr., and Mary (Carey) Beard.

John Beard's paternal grandfather was a native of Ireland, who settled in the state of Maryland, where he was well known as a teacher. He lived to the remarkable age of one hundred years. John Beard, Sr., the father of the subject of this sketch, was born in North Carolina, and came to Fairfield county, Ohio, when a young man. Mary Carey was born in Maryland, July 4, 1802. She was the daughter of John and Mary Carey. To this union were born six children: Mrs. Margaret Pickering, George, Jacob, Samuel, John and Cornelius. John Beard, Sr., was a miller by trade, who died of the cholera in 1832. His widow subsequently married J. M. Allen, and after bearing him six children, died on January 13, 1889.

John Beard was reared as a farmer and educated in the common schools. He left home at the age of fourteen, and for a time worked by the month as a farmer. In the meantime, he prepared himself for teaching, and in the fall

of 1855, taught his first school at Cuba, in Putnam county. He taught during four winter terms at this place, continuing his professional work until 1866, in Greensburg and Jackson townships, and at the public schools at Fort Jennings.

In 1856, Mr. Beard purchased a farm of eighty acres, investing twenty dollars in the farm. He made some improvements upon this place, and in 1865, removed to Franklin county, Ohio. He purchased a farm southeast of Fort Jennings, in 1866, on his return to Putnam county, and lived here until he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty-five acres in Greensburg township, in 1872.

John Beard was married on November 2, 1854, at Columbus, Ohio, to Mary Jane Case, a native of New York state, and the daughter of Jacob and Anna Case. They moved to Fairfield county, Ohio, near Runnelsburg in the early days, and there Mrs. Beard lived until her marriage. Two children were born to this marriage: William H., who died in infancy, and Charles W., of Greensburg township. Mrs. Beard died in 1866, and on September 22, 1867, Mr. Beard was married to Mrs. Sophia (Shank) Guyton, who was born in Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, and who was the daughter of Henry and Barbara (Meyers) Shank, natives of Maryland. Henry Shank was born near Hagerstown, Maryland, and was the son of Christian Shank, Sr. Barbara Meyers was born in Maryland, and was the daughter of John and Mary Meyers. She was married in Maryland to Henry Shank, and came here soon after her marriage. They settled north of the Blanchard river, and south of Defiance pike, in the northwestern part of Ottawa township, where they entered the land from the government. The Indians were still here and no roads but Indian paths led from their home to Ottawa. Here her father spent the rest of his life. After his death, the widow moved to a farm she owned neared Kalida, and spent the remainder of her life at that place.

To this second marriage of Mr. Beard, six children were born. Christian Beard is now farming six miles south of Auburn, Indiana. He married Maude Bibler, and they have four children: Joyce, Elsie, Samuel and Charles. Lucy A. became the wife of John Bibler; they live in the northwestern part of Greensburg township; they have had ten children, of whom two died and eight are living: Flossie, Fay, Velma, Coral, Ella, Della, Raymond, Dale, Pauline and Woodrow Wilson. John F. lives near Edgerton, Ohio. He married Mary Wynkoop, and they have four children, John Milton, Icy, Preston and Zola. Margaret died in infancy. Ella S. is the wife of Clyde M. Fletcher, and lives on her father's farm. They have one son, Paul Clarence Fletcher. Samuel S. lives south of Kalida, and married Minnie Kirkendall,

and they had four children, three of whom are living, Doyle, Helen and Annabel.

In 1874, Mr. Beard erected a substantial dwelling on his farm. In politics, Mr. Beard is a Prohibitionist. In 1857, he was elected justice of the peace, serving until 1864; he was re-elected in 1872, and severed a considerable time since that date. In 1880, Mr. Beard was appointed as land appraiser. He has served as school director, off and on, for a period of thirty-five years. He is naturally interested in education, because of his long experience as a public school teacher, in Jennings and Jackson townships. Mr. Beard has had affiliation with the Masonic order since 1861, being a member of the lodge at Delphos. He has been a prominent Sunday school worker and is a member of the Christian church.

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#### HIRAM A. ROBERTS.

In Putnam county there are many enterprising and progressive farmers, who keep fully abreast of all the modern advances in the theory and practice of successful agriculture; men who are constantly and carefully noting the wonderful experimental and research work of the government and state department of agriculture, and who quickly avail themselves of the profound results of such research, putting to the test on their own farms such official conclusions as seem best adapted to the variety or quality of the soil with which they have to work. These men, in the very nature of things, are making a success of their work. They are not included in that large number of grumblers which may be found in most any community, but are to be found among the even larger class of generous, open-minded, optimistic men, who are the real leaders in the advanced movements of mankind; men whom it is a pleasure to know; men who are the real makers of a community, the natural conservators of a neighborhood's best interests. In this latter class of farmers in this county, there are few who have a larger acquaintance or are better liked than the gentleman whose name is noted above, one of the most popular and successful farmers of Monroe township, whose quiet, unostentatious progress in the community in which he lives, certainly entitles him to be included in the large list of successful men of Putnam county, brief biographies of whom are contained in this interesting and valuable historical work.

Hiram A. Roberts was born in Oskalusa, Mahaska county, Iowa, on February 19, 1858, the son of Thomas N. and Mary Jane (Bussart) Roberts,

the former of whom was born in Allen county, Ohio, in 1829, the son of David Roberts, one of the pioneers of that section of the state.

David Roberts was a native of Wales, who, with his wife, came to America in the early part of the last century and settled in Allen county, Ohio, where he became a large landowner and a man of much influence in his community, his farm having been situated near the town of Gomar. Upon the death of his wife, in 1844, David Roberts sold his interests in Ohio and moved to Iowa, where he spent the rest of his life.

With the exception of two years which he spent in Iowa, Thomas Roberts, father of the immediate subject of this sketch, spent his entire life in Allen county, Ohio, where he died in 1861, at the age of thirty-two years, his son, Hiram A., being at that time but three years of age. Thomas Roberts was a good farmer, a highly respected citizen and a man of sterling character. He was married in Allen county to Mary Jane Bussart, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, and who moved to Allen county with her parents when she was but six months of age, and there grew to womanhood, making her home in that county for many years. She now makes her home with her son, Hiram A., in this county, being hale and hearty, at the ripe old age of eighty-two.

To Thomas and Mary Jane (Bussart) Roberts were born three children, as follow: John, a well-known resident of Columbus Grove, Putnam county, Ohio; Hiram A., of whom more later, and Sarah E., the widow of Edward Tracy, who now makes her home with her brother in Monroe township. To Edward and Sarah E. (Roberts) Tracy were born four children, Frank, Clarence, John and one who died in infancy. Frank and John make their home with their mother on the farm of their uncle Hiram and Clarence married Carrie Reynolds and is farming in Monroe township, living near Hartsburg.

Hiram A. Roberts left Allen county in 1880, coming to Putnam county, where he bought his present fine farm of seventy-seven acres in Monroe township, on which he since has made his home. On this he erected a modern country home, one of the finest in the county, where, with his mother and sister and the sons of the latter, he is living very happily and comfortably. He is a man of progressive ideas and on his small, compact farm he gets better results than many men obtain from a much larger acreage. The spirit of progress which animates him is reflected in the well-kept appearance of his place, barns, outbuildings, fences and drainage, all bespeaking a farmer who takes a pride in his great calling.

The same spirit that keeps him alive to the needs of his farm, keeps Mr. Roberts fully alive to the needs of the community in which he lives, and he is regarded as among the foremost men of his neighborhood, being ever active



in all movements designed to advance the common interest. He is a Republican and in the political campaigns in this county, ever is found promoting the cause of good government. He is a kind son and indulgent brother and his genial manners and high reputation for honesty and integrity make him a prime favorite in his community, where he is regarded with esteem by all who know him, the number of his friends being limited only by the number of his acquaintances.

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#### DR. ERNEST PLUMMER LEMLEY.

Dr. Ernest Plummer Lemley, devoted to the noble work which his profession implies, has been faithful and indefatigable in his endeavors. He has not only earned the due rewards of his efforts in a temporal way, but has also proved himself eminently worthy to exercise the important functions of his calling, by reason of his ability, his abiding sympathy and his earnest zeal in behalf of his fellow men. His understanding of the science of medicine is regarded by those who know him, as broad and comprehensive. The profession and the public accord to him a distinguished place among the men of his class in the state of Ohio. He has been a life of sincere and persistent endeavor, such as always brings a true appreciation of the real value of human existence—a condition that ever must be prolific of good results in all the relations of life.

Dr. Ernest Plummer Lemley was born on May 31, 1874, at Cassville, Monongalia county, West Virginia. He is the son of Alexander and Lucy (Tucker) Lemley. Alexander Lemley was a native of West Virginia, born there on April 28, 1841. He died on September 26, 1906, at the age of sixty-five. He always lived in West Virginia, and was a life-long farmer and a staunch Republican in politics. He attended the Methodist church during all his life, but was not a member. As a farmer he cultivated about two hundred and twenty-five acres of land, and was considered successful in all his farming operations. His wife, who was Lucy Tucker before her marriage, was a native of West Virginia, born there on April 11, 1854, and is still living in West Virginia at the age of sixty years. Alexander and Lucy (Tucker) Lemley were the parents of six children, of whom Dr. Ernest Plummer Lemley was the eldest; Mrs. Gertie Core lives in West Virginia; Clyde, Mrs. Elizabeth Core, Herbert and Lena, all live in West Virginia.

Dr. Lemley spent his boyhood days in West Virginia, on the homestead farm, and lived here until he was about twenty years old. He was educated

in the common schools and spent two years in the West Virginia State University. Subsequently, he attended the Barnes Medical College at St. Louis, graduating with the class of 1898. In the fall of that year he began the practice of his profession at Columbus Grove, and continued there for two years, coming in 1900 to Vaughnsville, to take up the McKinley office and practice. He is a general physician, and is still actively engaged in the practice.

Dr. Lemley was married on August 30, 1900, to Claudia Layman, a native of Putnam county, born in Pleasant township, and a daughter of Josephus and Clarinda (Rorhr) Layman. Dr. and Mrs. Lemley have no children. They have, however, adopted a boy, Richard, and are rearing a girl, Leota Meridith, whom they have, however, not adopted.

Fraternally, Dr. Lemley is a member of the Knights of Pythias and Maccabees at Vaughnsville, and is a Modern Woodman of America at Columbus Grove. Politically, he is a Republican, and has served as township treasurer of Sugar Creek township for two terms, filling this office with efficiency and credit to the people of this township and to himself. Dr. and Mrs. Lemley are members of the Congregational church at Vaughnsville, the Doctor being treasurer of the congregation. He is a member of the County, State and Northwestern Ohio Medical Societies. He is a booster for Vaughnsville and enjoys a large practice, standing, as he does, highly in his community as a man and as a physician.

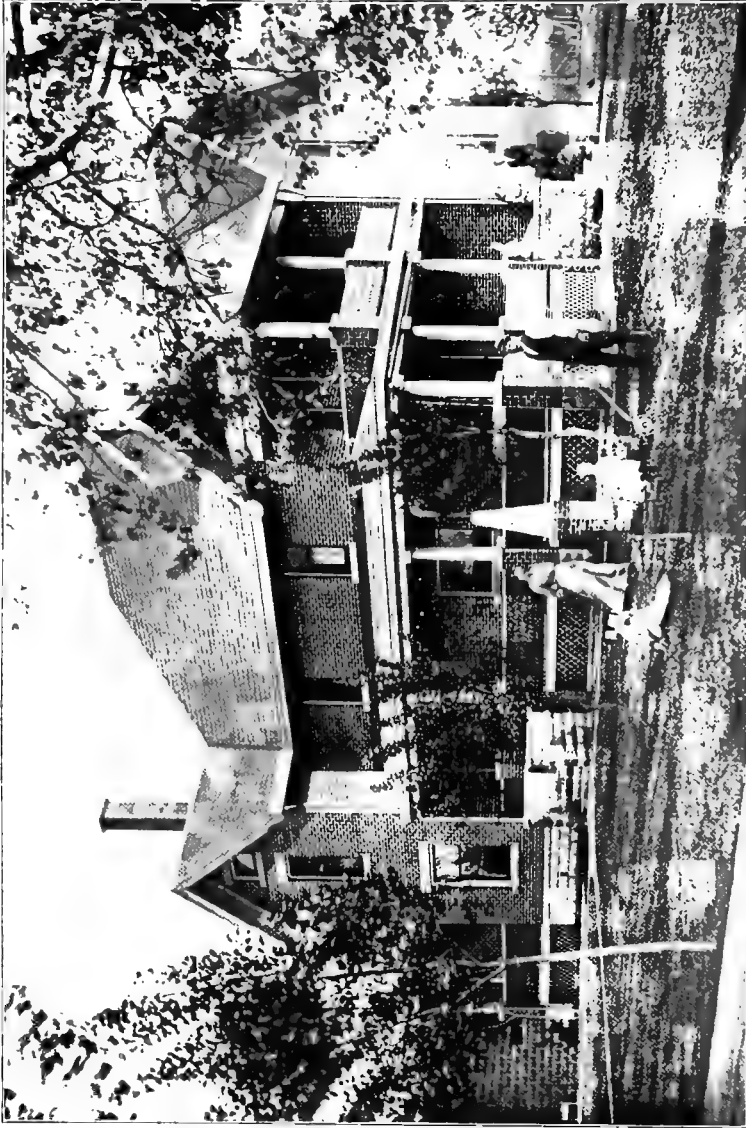
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#### DAVID HOMER GROFF.

Clearly defined purpose and consecutive effort in the affairs of life will inevitably result in attaining a due measure of success. In following the career of one who has attained such unqualified success by his own efforts, there comes into view the intrinsic individuality which made such an accomplishment possible. But there is granted an objective inspiration and there is kindled at the same time a feeling of respect and admiration. The qualities which have made David Homer Groff one of the prominent and successful farmers of Putnam county, have also won for him the esteem of his fellow citizens. His career has been one of well directed energy, strong determination and honorable methods.

David Homer Groff was born on March 30, 1866, at Weston, Wood county, Ohio. He is the son of Martin Luther and Elizabeth (Campbell) Groff, the former of whom was born on February 22, 1830, at Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He left there at the age of twelve years, and came to Wes-





RESIDENCE OF DAVID H. GROFF.



DAVID HOMER GROFF.



ton, Ohio, about 1852, where he settled south of the town on a farm, and where he remained until his retirement, when he moved to Weston, Ohio. He died on January 31, 1914, at the age of eighty-four years. At the time of his death he owned one hundred and twenty acres of land, most of which was divided among his children.

The children born to Martin Luther and Elizabeth (Campbell) Groff are as follow: Electa (Conklin), who lives north of Weston, Ohio; George, who lives south of Weston, Ohio; David Homer, the subject of this sketch; Charles, who lives at Deshler, Ohio; Ona, born on August 2, 1870, and who died on October 25, 1905; Mrs. Vinnie Walsh, who lives in Chicago, and Mrs. Maude Long, at Cleveland, Ohio.

The mother of these children was born in Crawford county, Ohio, November 25, 1835, and died at the age of sixty-six years, December 23, 1901. She came to Milton township, Wood county, Ohio, from Crawford county, with her parents about 1855, and was married on December 8, 1861. She was a faithful Christian woman throughout her life, and was beloved by all who knew her. Her brothers served in the War of the Rebellion, and two of them, Enoch and Nelson, returned alive.

David Homer Groff spent his boyhood days at Weston, Wood county, Ohio. He was reared on the farm and remained on the home place until he was twenty-two years of age, when he went into the milling business. He ran a mill for a year when it burned, and he came to Continental, Ohio, in the fall of 1890, where he was married. He returned to the old homestead farm, but before going back he ran a feed store for a short time, returning in the spring of 1891. He farmed the homestead farm for about five years and then bought one hundred and sixty acres of brush land near North Creek, Putnam county, in Monroe township. This land was cleared and ditched and put into shape for farming. Mr. Goff sold this land in 1903 and moved on a farm which he had previously purchased, east of Continental. He was here one year and then came to his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres in 1905. He has since added ninety acres, having about two hundred and fifty acres at the present time. Although this land was nearly all cleared when Mr. Goff purchased it, there were no fences or buildings. All of the improvements have been made by him. In the spring of 1911 he commenced a modern country residence, which was finished in 1912. This house has hot water heat, electric lights, etc., and is conceded to be the finest home in the county.

Mr. Groff was married on February 17, 1891, to Ora B. Andrews, who was born on November 18, 1871, in Wisconsin, and who is the daughter

of John Horace and Laura (Price) Andrews. To this happy union four children have been born: Floyd, who married Mary Shirley, lives on the home place; Bernice, Beatrice and Ima are at home.

Mr. Groff is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Continental. He is identified with the Republican party, but is more or less independent in his voting. Mrs. Groff is a member of the United Brethren church, where the children are also communicants. Mr. Groff has not held any offices, with the exception of that of member of the school board in Wood county, Ohio. He is well and favorably known throughout Putnam county, and is popular with his neighbors, and, in fact, with all in Monroe township.

Mr. Groff was one of the leading factors in the organization of the Farmers State Bank of Continental, of which he is a director. He, with William H. Lowe and Charles E. Wight, were a committee who drew up plans and caused to be erected the Odd Fellow building at that place.

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#### RUFUS E. GILBERT.

Ohio has been especially honored in the character and career of her farmers. In every section have been found men born to leadership in agriculture, men who have dominated their communities because of their superior intelligence, natural endowment and force of character. Rufus E. Gilbert is a man well known throughout Putnam county. Mr. Gilbert traces his ancestry back to substantial Irish stock, which has been prominently identified with the history of this country, since its earliest days.

Rufus E. Gilbert was born, February 21, 1844, in Summit county, near Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. He is the son of Jacob C. and Martha A. Butler Gilbert. Jacob C. Gilbert was born in October, 1807, North Hero Island, New York, and was reared as a farmer. He received a good practical education, and was married when twenty-five years old, or in 1832, to Mandana Stoughton. She died on July 3, 1832. Upwards of five years later, on January 1, 1838, Jacob C. Gilbert married Martha A. Butler, in Atwater, Portage county, Ohio. She was born on November 16, 1820, in New Haven county, Connecticut, and was the daughter of David and Betsey (Foot) Butler, the former of whom was born in New Haven county, Connecticut, on October 2, 1772, and the latter of whom was born in the same county, on August 9, 1781. They remained in Connecticut until 1829, when they emi-



grated to Portage county, Ohio, and stayed here until their death. David Butler died on March 29, 1856, and his wife on August 3, 1854. They were members of the Congressional church, and he was an old-line Whig. Mrs. Jacob C. Gilbert's grandfather was Matthew Butler, a native of England, who came to New Haven county, Connecticut, in colonial times. He served in the Continental army during the Revolutionary War, for seven years. He married Ruth Lindley. They had a son, David, who also served in the Revolutionary War, especially as a minute man, at the battle of Long Island. Jacob C. and Martha A. Gilbert had several children: Lucian, Lucius, Rufus E., the subject of this sketch; Martha, Mary E., who married Henry Wing; Adelaïd, deceased; Ida M., who married David Owens, and Prosper L.

Jacob C. and Martha A. (Butler) Gilbert settled first in Summit county, Ohio, where both he and his wife taught school. In fact, they met while both were public school teachers. He then came to Cleveland, Ohio, where he spent three years and removed to Putnam county, Ohio, in December, 1858, settling in Monroe township, on a farm of forty acres. He taught school in Putnam county, and in Defiance county, but most of the time in the former, until his death. On account of poor health he was not able to do farm work. Jacob C. Gilbert died on December 16, 1864, at the age of fifty-seven years and ten months. There were only forty voters in Monroe township when he settled here, and during his life he saw the population of the township grow exceedingly. His wife, Martha A. (Butler) Gilbert, died on the old home farm in June, 1903, at the age of eighty-two years and five months. Of the eight children, heretofore mentioned, who were born to Jacob C. and Martha A. (Butler) Gilbert, only four are now living. Lucius B., who was born on November 2, 1838, and died on August 5, 1839; Lucian De Loss, who was born on September 22, 1840, and died on July 2, 1847; Martha, who was born on August 20, 1847, and died on April 7, 1857; Mrs. Mary E. Wing, who was born on August 9, 1849, and now living on a farm in Monroe township; Sarah Adelaide was born on July 30, 1854, and died on October 3, 1862; Ida M., who was born on September 15, 1859, and who married David Owens, lives at Continental, Ohio; Prosper L., who was born on July 6, 1863, lives near the Columbia river, in the state of Washington.

Rufus E. Gilbert remained in Cleveland, Ohio, with his parents for three years, after they removed to that city. He attended the public schools of the forest city. He came with his parents to Putnam county, Ohio, and assisted his father with the work of the farm.

On August 22, 1862, Mr. Gilbert enlisted in Company H., One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving in Ken-

tucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, North and South Carolina, and Virginia, and participating in all the engagements of the Atlanta campaign. He was honorably discharged on May 25, 1865, and returned home to resume the peaceful pursuits, which his courage and the courage of his fellows had secured to this country.

Mr. Gilbert was married on July 19, 1866, to Mary A. Pope, a native of Putnam county, and a daughter of George and Fanny (Weaver) Pope. Mr. Gilbert settled on the farm where they now live. They cleared most of the farm and have added to it, till they now own a hundred and seventy-one acres. Although Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert live on the farm, they are retired and the farm is rented out. They have no children.

Politically, Mr. Gilbert is a Democrat. He was decennial appraiser of Continental and Monroe township in 1890, and was infirmity director for six years. He and his wife are members of the Mount Zion Chapel Christian church, of Monroe township. Mr. Gilbert is a pleasant man, intelligent and an interesting conversationalist. He is a man well liked and favorably known in this section of Putnam county, and bears a high reputation in the community for honesty.

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#### MERRICK SKIVER.

It is a pleasure to investigate the career of a successful self-made man. Peculiar honor attaches to that individual who, beginning the great struggle of life alone and unaided, gradually overcomes unfavorable environment, removes one by one the obstacles in the pathway of success, and by master strokes of his own force and vitality, succeeds in forging his way to the front and winning for himself a competency. Such is the record of Merrick Skiver, a popular citizen of Monroe township, to whose life and character the following pages are devoted.

Merrick Skiver was born on June 25, 1849, in Highland township, Defiance county, Ohio. He is a son of Isaac and Mary (Wheeler) Skiver, the former of whom was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, on March 12, 1826, and the latter of whom was born in Germany, on May 14, 1830.

The grandfather of Merrick Skiver was David Skiver, who was born about 1786, in Pennsylvania, and who settled in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, in pioneer days. He was married to Sarah Warner. David Skiver was one of the first settlers in Defiance county, Ohio, and lived there at a time when the Indians and wild beasts roamed the woods. For six years the Indians main-

tained a camp near the Skiver family home. David Skiver was a Jacksonian Democrat, and a man who was prominent locally in politics. Mrs. Skiver was a member of the Christian church and the grandmother lived to the advanced age of one hundred and fourteen years. David Skiver was eighty-four years old at the time of his death.

Isaac Skiver, the father of Merrick, was reared on a farm in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, and was a great hunter in his early days. He and his wife were the parents of nine children: Merrick, the immediate subject of this sketch; Margaret, the wife of James Van Vlerah; Regina, the wife of John Alspaugh; George Henry, of Defiance, Ohio; Josephine, the wife of William Austin, of Benson, Alabama; Clara, the wife of William Davis, deceased; Calvin A., a resident of Highland township, Defiance county, Ohio; Anna Jane, deceased; Emma, the wife of Adam Stork, of Flint, Michigan, and Hannah, the wife of John James. Isaac Skiver died at the age of eighty-four years at the old homestead farm, while his wife died at Defiance, Ohio, at the home of a relative.

Merrick Skiver received a good common school education, and this he has supplemented by home study and by practical business experience, and today he is a well-informed man.

Mr. Skiver was married on August 19, 1873, to Rosella Donaldson, who was born on October 4, 1852, in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio. She is a daughter of Aaron and Sarah A. Donaldson, the former of whom was a native of Fairfield county, Ohio, and who, in turn, was a son of John Donaldson. John Donaldson was born in Maryland in 1784, and married Mary Grubb in 1809, and was a captain in the War of 1812. He died at the age of sixty-four years. His wife, who was born in 1790, died at the age of eighty-two. Aaron Donaldson was born in 1810, removed to Putnam county about 1850, settling on eighty acres of land in Union township. He lived on this farm until 1862, when he removed to a farm in Monroe township, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres. Aaron Donaldson married Sarah A. Swayzee, a native of Fairfield county, born on December 20, 1827.

Mr. and Mrs. Merrick Skiver are the parents of seven children: Olive, born on April 30, 1875, married Ora S. Hitchcock, June 15, 1902, lives in Toledo, Ohio; Elise, born on August 23, 1877, lives at home; Lavern, born on January 8, 1880, died May 14, 1884; Anna, born on November 7, 1881, died May 1, 1884; Florence, born on January 12, 1886, is at home; Maude, born on May 21, 1888, became the wife of Creede Porter, October 18, 1910, and lives at Defiance, Ohio, where Mr. Porter is employed in a steel mill; Violet, born on April 23, 1894, is at home.

When Mr. Merrick first settled on his present farm, the land was covered with swamps, and entirely unreclaimed. So ably has he directed its improvement and cultivation, that his place is now one of the finest and most productive farms in Putnam county, being equipped with a thorough system of drainage. Mr. Skiver has seen Putnam county transformed from a swampy wilderness into a favored and prosperous farming region. He is, in every respect, a successful farmer.

Mr. Skiver has never been active in political matters, but he served as school director for a number of years. He is not active now. He is a congenial man, a loving father and a kind husband, and has always been a good provider for the wants of his family. He has a fine farm and believes in progressive methods of farming, his farm proving this better than anything that can be said. He has been a hard worker, frugal in his habits and has acquired more than a substantial competence for his old age.

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### JOHN W. ERNST.

The success of men in business or any vocation depends upon character as well as upon knowledge. Business demands confidence, and where that is lacking, business ends. In every community some men are known for their upright lives, strong common sense and moral worth, rather than for their wealth or political standing. Their neighbors and acquaintances respect them, the younger generation heed their example, and when they wrap the drapery of their couches about them and lie down to pleasant dreams, posterity listens with reverence to the story of their useful lives. John W. Ernst, a well-known farmer of Monroe township, Putnam county, Ohio, who, until a few years ago, was the proprietor of the leading livery barn at Continental and who is now a prosperous farmer, is a man who belongs to this class.

Mr. Ernst was born on October 1, 1864, in Monroe, Allen county, Ohio. He is the son of David and Mary Jane (Seibert) Ernst. David Ernst was born in 1831, Carroll county, Ohio, and was the son of Henry Ernst, a native of Germany, and a pioneer in Carroll county, Ohio. David Ernst was reared as a farmer, and followed this vocation throughout his entire life. His father, also, was a farmer and a stanch member of the Methodist church. Mrs. Mary Jane (Seibert) Ernst, the mother of David, was a native of Carroll county, Ohio, and the daughter of Samuel Seibert. She was born in 1836, and is still living at Cairo, Ohio.

To David and Mary Jane (Seibert) Ernst, eleven children were born: Samuel B., Sarah, Oliver A., Saloma, John W., Daniel C., Simon A., Burton H., William, Mary B. and Dollie May.

David Ernst was a soldier in the Civil War. After serving his enlistment, he returned home and devoted the remainder of his life to his family and to his home, having, before his death in July, 1892, acquired a substantial competence.

John W. Ernst, the subject of this sketch, was reared on the farm and lived with his parents until he was twenty-one years old. He received a good common-school education and was well equipped for life. In 1887, Mr. Ernst engaged in the livery business in Continental, and continued in this occupation until April, 1906, when he sold out to Charles Kalt, and retired to his splendid farm of forty acres west of Continental. At the time Mr. Ernst sold his livery business, he also sold his property in Continental. Mr. Ernst now follows general farming and the raising of grain and live stock. He is a man well known for his sterling character and dependable habits. He is a good judge of horses and now owns a fine white Arabian stallion. He has been closely identified with the history of Continental and was one of the pioneers of this town. He has witnessed many improvements and changes and has seen the town grow from small beginnings to its present proportions. Mr. Ernst has added to his original forty acres, until he now owns a hundred and five acres, all of which is located in Monroe township, Putnam county.

John W. Ernst was married on September 11, 1892, to Mary E. Varner, who was born in Putnam county, Ohio, and who was the daughter of Isaiah Varner. Mrs. Ernst was born on September 26, 1869, in Greensburg township, and died on April 12, 1911, at the age of forty-one years, six months and fifteen days. She became a Christian early in life, uniting with the Methodist Episcopal church, of Continental. During her entire life she was a loving wife and a kind mother, and at the time of her death left a large circle of friends and relatives, including a father, mother, six brothers, two sisters and five children.

"A precious one from us has gone;  
A voice we loved is stilled;  
A place is vacant in our home  
Which never can be filled.

"God, in his wisdom, has recalled  
The boon his love had given,  
And though the body slumbers here,  
The soul is safe in Heaven."

To Mr. and Mrs. Ernst six children were born: George F., who was born on November 1, 1893, married Augusta Wright and lives on a farm in Palmer township, Putnam county. They have one child, Mary Marcelle. The other five children are: Manford Hebrew, born on March 20, 1896; Dewey Dow, born on May 22, 1898, died on July 6, 1899; Otto Kenneth, born on May 23, 1900; Oliver C., born on February 19, 1903, died on February 20, 1903, and Fanny Lucile, born on May 12, 1907. Three, therefore, are living on the home farm.

Mr. Ernst, in politics, is a Democrat. He has served both as a member of the town council of Continental and also as a member of the school board. He is one of Monroe township's trustees at present. In his many years' residence in Continental and vicinity, he has come to be one of the best-known citizens in this section of Putnam county. John W. Ernst is a man of temperate habits, honest in his business dealings and cordial in his relations with his fellow men.

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#### WILLIAM H. LOWE.

Among the representative farmers of Putnam county is the subject of this sketch, who is the owner of many splendid acres of fine farming land in Monroe township. William H. Lowe is carrying on the various departments of his enterprise with that discretion and energy which are sure to find their natural sequence in definite success. He has always been a hard worker, a good manager and a man of economical habits. He is also fortunately situated in a thriving farming community, and it is no wonder that he stands today in the front ranks of the farmers of that favored locality. Mr. Lowe has also been a successful carpenter and has several hundred buildings to his credit in Putnam county.

William H. Lowe was born on October 23, 1873, in Fairfield county, Ohio. He is the son of Stephen S. and Laura E. (Willison) Lowe.

Stephen S. Lowe was born in July, 1853, in Muskingum county, Ohio, and is the son of Benedict and Lucinda Lowe, who were natives of Ireland. Stephen S. Lowe came to this county, where he remained for one year and then removed to Allen county, Ohio, near Delphos. Here he remained for three years, or until 1881. He removed to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1882, near Cloverdale, when the country was mostly in a wild state. He was a shoemaker by trade and lost his sight and has been blind for the past sixteen years. He now lives with his daughter at Cloverdale, Ohio. He is a





MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM H. LOWE.





RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM H. LOWE.



member of the Catholic church, and in politics is a Democrat. Mrs. Laura E. Lowe was born in 1844 in Illinois and came to Fairfield county, Ohio, when a small child. Her parents settled near Lancaster. She died in March, 1898, at the age of fifty-four years. She and her husband had six children: William H.; Mrs. Lula Spitnale, who lives in Perry township; Stephen, who lives at Charlevoix, Michigan; Mrs. Elizabeth Andrews, of Lima, Ohio; Mrs. Ida Oakes, of St. Joseph, Missouri, and Mrs. Zoe Kippler, of Lima, Ohio.

William H. Lowe came with his parents to Vinton county, Ohio, when about three years old. Subsequently he removed with them to Allen county and finally to Putnam county, near Cloverdale. Here he grew up and attended the township schools. He learned the carpenter's trade early in life and did much work in Putnam county. He was a foreman at Toledo, Ohio, for three years, and has two hundred and fifty-seven buildings to his credit. Mr. Lowe came from Continental, Ohio, to Toledo, and settled on his present farm. He has a farm of eighty acres, south of the place where he lives, in Monroe township. He is interested in a partnership arrangement, embracing some six hundred acres of land. He removed to the farm where he now lives one year after his marriage and has erected all of the buildings himself. He has a splendid farm and excellent buildings. He is a progressive farmer and believes thoroughly in advanced methods.

Mr. Lowe is a student of farming and has watched with pride the possibilities afforded by the use of modern appliances in the saving of labor with the greatest amount of efficiency. As he has studied he has planned, and today has erected upon his beautiful farm a barn one hundred by forty feet, that not only stores one hundred and sixty tons of hay, but also affords shelter for a sixty horsepower gas tractor, with a gang of eight fourteen-inch plows.

William H. Lowe was married on February 15, 1902, to Iva A. Bibler, who was born on November 20, 1876, close to Dupont, in Perry township. She is the daughter of Samuel and Mary (Ridenour) Bibler. To this union four children have been born, all of whom are living at home. They are Ruhla L., Owen B., Margarite A. and Richard William.

Mr. Lowe is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Free and Accepted Masons and the Modern Woodmen of America, at Continental. He is more or less identified with the Republican party, but is independent in vote. He has never aspired to office. He is not identified with any church, but attends the United Brethren church at Continental, of

which Mrs. Lowe is a member. William H. Lowe is a quiet man, who makes no pretensions and claims to superior virtue, yet he is a man of intelligent and sterling qualities and bears a high reputation in Monroe township, where he has lived for many years.

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### DAVID WISTERMAN.

To attain a worthy citizenship by a life that is always honored and respected even from childhood deserves more than mere mention. It is no easy task to resist the many temptations of youth and early manhood, and to establish a character in the minds and hearts of associates that will remain an unstained tribute for all times. One may take his place in public life through some vigorous stroke of public policy, and even abide in the hearts of his friends and neighbors, but to reach the same position by leading a consistent upright life, without craving for exaltation merely for selfish ends, is worthy of the highest praise and commendation. A man who has lived after this fashion is David Wisterman, a well-known farmer of Monroe township, a veteran of the Civil War, and a valiant, courageous and valuable citizen in times of peace. Mr. Wisterman has always been ready to assist in public movements with laudable preferment, and from many standpoints deserves the high esteem with which he is held by the people of Putnam county, where he is so well known.

David Wisterman was born on March 6, 1838, at Kalida, Ohio. He is the son of George Joseph and Elizabeth (Cigler) Wisterman.

George Joseph Wisterman was born in 1797, at the head of Lake Geneva, near Seneca, New York, and here grew to manhood. In his youth he received a liberal education, having been prepared for a minister in the Lutheran church. He was well known as a German and Latin scholar, and taught school for a time during his younger days. He studied medicine under the direction of Doctor Shingler, and practiced this profession for many years. He also learned the trade of the journeyman tanner, and upon coming to Putnam county, in 1836, he followed this occupation. In the meantime, however, he had lived in Wayne county for a time. He built a tannery at Kalida, the first one in this section of the state. In 1846, he sold the tannery, and settled on a farm in Greensburg township, near the Blanchard river. Subsequently, he operated a saw and grist-mill on the river, some five miles from the farm. In 1849, he went to California, returning three years later, and

settling on the old farm in Greensburg township, where he died in January, 1853. He was an old-line Whig in politics, and for a number of years filled the office of justice of the peace. George Joseph Wisterman was twice married, the first time to a Miss Pontius, by whom he had three children, Henry, Joseph and Isabella, all of whom are now deceased. Joseph owned about a quarter section of land in Wayne county, where Massilon, Ohio, now stands. After the death of his first wife, George Joseph Wisterman married Elizabeth Cigler, who was born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on September 30, 1817, and who migrated from Pennsylvania to Wayne county, Ohio, with her parents, Henry Cigler and wife, who were natives of Pennsylvania. From Wayne county, Ohio, they came to Putnam county, settling at Kalida, where Elizabeth Cigler was married to George Joseph Wisterman. Eight children were born to this marriage: Sarah, who died on February 28, 1852; David, who is the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth is deceased; Isaac lives in Florida; Jonas and Mary live in Kansas; Mrs. Catherine Croft Moree lives in Bowling Greene, Ohio; Mrs. Susan Miller lives in Florida, with her brother, Isaac. George Joseph Wisterman died in January, 1852, at the age of fifty-six; his wife died at the age of seventy-five years.

The paternal grandfather of David Wisterman was George Joseph Wisterman, Sr., born in Wurtemberg, Germany, and who came to America in 1795, settling near Buffalo, New York, where he married a Miss Brosius. He was a fine German and English scholar and a profound student of Greek, Hebrew and Latin. For many years he was a leading Lutheran preacher in New York state, and was known far and near for his scholarly attainments.

David Wisterman, the subject of this sketch, lived in Kalida, leaving there, however, at the age of eight years, and removing with his parents to Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio. He stayed in Greensburg township for one year, and then removed to Perry township. He attended school in Perry township, and after having finished his education, taught for thirty-eight terms, mostly in Putnam county, though some of his professional work was done in Paulding county, in Bureau county, Illinois, and in Defiance county. Mr. Wisterman educated himself by home study, principally. He attended Kenyon Normal School, however, at Gambier, Ohio, an institution endowed by Lord Kenyon of England. It was one of the best schools in the country at that time and one of the first great colleges in the West. Mr. Wisterman also attended McCoy's commercial school, at Columbus, Ohio, and was a student there in 1861, when the war broke out.

David Wisterman enlisted on August 14, 1862, for three years, and served until his discharge, on August 27, 1863. He was a member of Com-

pany E, One Hundred and Eleventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, attached to the Army of the West, and he was discharged for disability at the end of thirteen months. During his service in the army, he contracted lung trouble in the wet marshes and, although he underwent an operation, he was finally dismissed. He was in part of the battle of Perryville, when Bragg was driven out of Kentucky, and served six months at Bowling Green. After the war he returned home.

Subsequently, Mr. Wisterman left for Auburn, Indiana, for treatment of lung trouble contracted while serving in the army. Finally, he studied medicine, and practiced for many years, but quit the practice in 1904. During the time he was practicing medicine, he was also a farmer, and had a hundred and fifty-seven acres where the old Wisterman farm is now located. Here, Mr. Wisterman built an elevator, placing his son Harvey in charge of it for some time, when it was finally sold to Toledo people, who now operate it. In 1904, Mr. Wisterman sold his farm and removed to Continental, where he purchased property for his wife. He, however, went to the soldiers' home, and lived there for five years, returning occasionally on furloughs. Later, he purchased his present farm of thirty-seven acres, and lives now a quiet retired life. He has been more or less an invalid since leaving the army.

David Wisterman was married on March 17, 1864, to Leandra Brower, a native of Putnam county, Ohio, born about four miles north of Kalida, along the Blanchard river, and the daughter of Brockman and Angeline (Stalnacher) Brower. To this happy union nine children have been born. Chauncey Burton and Elizabeth, the two eldest children, are deceased; Viola M., the seventh child, is also deceased; William H. married Florence Mullett, and lives in Toledo, Ohio, where he is a machinist; they have one child, Howard; Thomas C. married Anna Skelley, who is now deceased; he is a farmer living about one mile from Rawson, Ohio; there are three children, Elizabeth, Blanche and George D.; Harvey M. married Ardella Miller, who is now deceased; they had four children, Robert M., Helen Frances, Edna and Paul; two of these children, Robert M. and Paul, are deceased; Harvey M. lives at home, and is at present Putnam county representative of the State Life Insurance Company of Indianapolis, Indiana; he also deals in real estate. Harvey M. Wisterman is a splendid type of man, well known and popular throughout Putnam county. Alexis E. married Flossie Snyder, and they live at Union City, Tennessee. He is a contractor and builder, and has a plant where cement and brick blocks are manufactured. They have five children, Catherine, Violet, Jessie H., William H. and Dorothy. George J. married

Alta Simmons, and they live at Rudolph, Wood county, Ohio; they have three children, Harry C., Harvey Edward and Georgia Elizabeth. He is a farmer and also is engaged in the oil business. Myrtle M. married H. C. Parrett.

Mrs. David Wisterman's father, Brockman Brower, was a native of North Carolina, and his wife, Angeline (Stalnacher) Brower, was a native of Virginia. They were pioneer settlers in Putnam county, Ohio. Brockman Brower was an influential man in the Methodist church, and a strong Republican. His father, Frederick Brower, was a native and resident of Randolph county, North Carolina, where he married Nellie Staley. He served in the War of 1812, and was a prominent man in the South.

David Wisterman is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic Post at Kalida, Ohio. With the exception of township clerk, which he held for one term, Mr. Wisterman has not been active in politics. He is naturally conservative in politics, and although he votes somewhat independently, he is identified with the Republican party. He has been a great reader and a student of natural history. He is well informed upon all subjects, a free thinker, and a man who believes in the greatest freedom of thought and conscience. His advice is much sought in this section of Putnam county, where he has lived so long and so usefully.

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#### CHARLES VARNER.

In every community are to be found individuals who, by reason of pronounced ability and forceful personality, rise superior to the majority and command the homage of their fellows; who, by revealing to the world true, resplendent virtues, perseverance in effort and directing purpose, never fail to attain positions of honor and trust and become, in the full sense of the term, leaders of men. In this class is that well-known gentleman, successful lawyer and real estate dealer, Charles Varner, of Continental, Putnam county, Ohio. He is a man who ranks among the leading citizens of Putnam county, and who, for a number of years, has borne an influential part in the affairs of Putnam county, where he resides.

Charles Varner was born on January 27, 1872, in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Isaiah and Fanny (Landis) Varner, the former of whom was the son of Jacob and Eliza (Guyton) Varner. Jacob Varner was a native of Virginia, as was also his wife.

He left Virginia to come to Ohio in pioneer days and was among the early settlers in this county. Isaiah Varner was born in Greensburg township in 1842. Fanny Landis was born in the same township in 1843. Isaiah Varner grew to manhood on the home place, known as the old Jacob Varner homestead, and was reared as a farmer. With the exception of a short time spent outside of the county, Isaiah Varner has remained on the original one hundred and sixty acres, where he still lives, although he is retired at the age of seventy-two. His wife is also living.

To Mr. and Mrs. Isaiah Varner ten children were born: Emma, deceased; Maggie, who is at home; Mrs. John Ernst, who died in 1911; Charles, the subject of this sketch; Jacob, of DeKalb county, Indiana; Jerry, who also lives in DeKalb county; Martin, who lives in Williams county, Ohio; Curtis, who is at home; Mrs. George Stauffer, who lives in Ottawa; and Chester, who lives in Hammond, Indiana.

Charles Varner grew up on his father's farm and was educated in the common schools. He attended the normal school at Angola, Indiana, for three or four terms, after which he returned to Putnam county and taught school for about eight years. Subsequently, he attended Ada College and was graduated in 1894 from the pharmaceutical course. He then worked in a drug store at Continental, Ohio, and while here, he read law and was admitted to the bar in 1902. He began to practice in that year in Continental and during his practice, has also handled real estate, loans and insurance. Mr. Varner is still active in this business.

Charles Varner was married on September 18, 1901, to Mae E. Eberly, who was born on January 26, 1879, in Lucas county, Ohio, and who is the daughter of Benjamin and Jennie (Gorill) Everly. To this happy union, five children have been born: Harriett, Charles Gorill, Hope, Theodora and one who died in infancy.

Charles Varner was at one time an active member of the Knights of Pythias, but is no longer a member. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons No. 570, the chapter and council at Ottawa, and the commandery at Defiance, Ohio. He is a member of Lodge No. 869, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Continental, Ohio. Mr. Varner is a staunch Republican. He was an alternate delegate to the Republican national convention at Chicago, in 1912. He served as mayor of Continental for one term, following 1901, and was city solicitor for four terms. He has been an active member of the school board. Religiously, Mr. Varner and his family are all members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In a personal way, Charles



Varner is a congenial young man and well liked in his town and township. He is a good business man and bears a high reputation for honesty and integrity in the community where his professional labors have been performed.

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### VICTOR NOIROT.

Putnam county is fortunate in the number and character of its farmers, and much of the material prosperity of the county can be attributed to the fact that its farmers have kept abreast of the times. It can hardly be questioned that the farmer is an index to the civilization of a community. If the farmers are progressive and up-to-date, it follows that the standard of living in that community will be higher. Thousands of banks have been organized within the last few years in order to supply the needs of the farmers, and according to one authority, the farmer and his crop furnish the bulk of the money for most of the smaller banks throughout the United States. The wholesome living, which is the good fortune of the farmer, is a big factor in keeping up the general tone of a county. The business men of the towns are drawing the men for their employees from the country, and everywhere it is noted that the men who are rising to prominence in the various activities of life were born and reared on the farm. Putnam has long been known as one of the very best farming counties of the state, and its excellent farmers have been one of the greatest factors in the material advancement of the county. Among the many excellent farmers of Putnam county there is no one who stands higher in the estimation of his neighbors than Victor Noirot, of Monr e township.

Victor Noirot was born on September 7, 1857, in Hancock county, Ohio, and is the son of Lawrence and Mary (Bouvier) Noirot.

Lawrence Noirot was the son of Francis C. and Frances (Raclor) Noirot, the former of whom was born in 1798, in the village of Boncourt, County Manly, department of Hontmarn, France, and united in marriage to Frances Raclor in 1823, at the same village. Frances Raclor was born in the village where she was married, in December, 1800, and died on February 28, 1898. He died September 26, 1866, in Henry county, Ohio. Before leaving France, Francis Noirot was mayor of Boncourt, France. They came to America with their family on October 27, 1853, and finally settled at Findley, Hancock county, Ohio, with their children, Frances, Nicholas, Claude, Anna, Mary, Celestian, John and Velaria. One child, Magdalena, had died in

France, and one son, Lawrence, came afterward. He was the father of the subject of this sketch. They came by way of New York City to Hancock county, and were farmers there for a time. Later, they removed to Putnam county, and here were among the early settlers, experiencing all the privations of pioneer life. Subsequently, they removed to Henry county, Ohio.

Lawrence Noirot, the father of Victor, was born on August 9, 1830, in France, and grew up there, coming to America at the age of twenty-six, in 1856. His father, mother and family, had come three years previously, in 1853. Lawrence Noirot came immediately to Hancock county by way of New Orleans. While in the South he contracted the yellow fever, and was laid up for three years in Hancock county, Ohio. Lawrence Noirot was married in 1856, to Mary Bouvier (a daughter of Claude Bouvier), a native of France, born on January 6, 1840. He was a farmer in Hancock county for a time, but later, in 1861, removed to Putnam county, and settled in Palmer township, where he farmed until March, 1887, when he moved to Defiance county, Ohio, where he farmed till his death, in August, 1867, at the age of sixty-seven years. He owned one hundred and sixty acres of land in Defiance county. Mrs. Mary Noirot, who was Mary Bourvier before her marriage, died on December 24, 1911, at the age of seventy-one years. Her parents were farmers and early settlers of Hancock county, Ohio, where they lived until their death. Lawrence and Mary (Bouvier) Noirot had seven children. Victoria married John C. Oakley, of Palmer township. Lawrence was the second child. Josephine married Edward Lafontaine, of Palmer township. Louis lives in Michigan, William A. lives at Galyard, Michigan, and Sophia, the only child who died.

Victor Noirot lived in Hancock county, and was four years of age when he was brought to Putnam county, Ohio, by his parents, in 1861. With the exception of about seven years spent in Henry county, Ohio, he has lived in Putnam county all his life. He left home at the age of twenty-nine years. Mr. Noirot owned forty acres in Henry county, and sold out and came to Putnam county, where he purchased sixty acres in Monroe township, where he now resides and carries on general farming. He removed to his present farm in 1895.

Mr. Noirot was married on November 23, 1886, to Catherine Williams, a native of Palmer township, born on February 16, 1868, and the daughter of Michael and Mary Ann (Frankhart) Williams, the former of whom was a native of Germany and the latter of whom, also, was born in Germany, in Luxemburg. Mary Ann Frankhart came to America with her parents at the age of seven years.

To Mr. and Mrs. Victor Noirot three children have been born. Oliver married Flossie Beemer, and lives in Galyard, Michigan. He is a farmer there. They have no children. Viola married Grover Beemer, and lives at Old Fort, Ohio. They had one child, Victor Emanuel, who is deceased, Blanche, the third child, lives at home.

Mr. Noirot is not a member of any lodge. He has been a member of the school board, and justice of the peace in Palmer township for one term. He served two terms as township clerk in Palmer township, being elected at the age of twenty-one years. He served as township trustee of Monroe township for two terms, and was on the school board for about twelve years. He was also township ditch supervisor for three terms, and is still active. Likewise, he has served as justice of the peace in Monroe township, and served several times upon the election board, and on numerous occasions as presiding judge of this board. Politically, Mr. Noirot is a stanch Democrat. Religiously, he and his wife and family are members of the Catholic church at North Creek, in Palmer township. They are highly respected residents of Putnam county, and entitled to the free and generous esteem accorded them by their neighbors and friends.

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#### SAMUEL M. DICKEY.

One of Monroe township's well-known farmers and stock raisers who is deserving of a place in this volume, is Samuel M. Dickey, a man of courage, self-reliance and integrity of purpose. As a consequence of these qualities, during his entire life, he has stood high in the estimation of his neighbors and friends, whose interests he has always sought to promote. Mr. Dickey has been honored by the people of Perry township, where he formerly lived, and, in 1905, came very near being elected as sheriff of Putnam county, having lost out by a narrow margin. He has been a successful contractor, but now confines his attention wholly to farming.

Samuel M. Dickey was born on September 25, 1856, in Perry township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Jacob and Nancy E. (Hutchinson) Dickey.

Jacob Dickey was born on March 16, 1829, in Holmes county, Ohio, and died at his home near Continental, Ohio, on April 10, 1911, at the age of eighty-two years and twenty-five days. He came with his parents to Putnam county in 1842, when that country was a vast wilderness. He was married to Nancy E. Hutchinson on August 25, 1852, and in the fall

of that year they came to their present farm in Perry township, where they both continued to live until death. Together they suffered the hardships of pioneer life and experienced many joys and sorrows. They built a log cabin in the woods and after their marriage lived in it for three years. Jacob Dickey then rented a farm of one hundred and seven acres and farmed it for two years, when he came to his farm in Perry township. With the exception of Samuel M., the subject of this sketch, all the children were born on the homestead farm. Jacob Dickey was the son of John and Mary (Deeds) Dickey, who came from Holmes county to Putnam county in 1842, and settled on a farm in Perry township close to the river, where they both died. Jacob Dickey was at one time an active member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, but was not active at the time of his death. He was township trustee, justice of the peace for many years, and a man of wide influence in the local councils of the Democratic party. He was not a member of any church. To Jacob and Nancy Dickey, nine children were born: G. W., of Cannelsburg, Indiana; Samuel M., whose history is here presented; Mrs. Lena Spitnale, of Perry township; Frank, who lives on the old home farm; Mrs. Sanford Smith, of Continental; W. M., of Lima, Ohio; Mrs. W. H. Harmon, of Morley, Missouri; H. K., who also lives at Morley, and Mrs. John Camburn, of Amber, Pennsylvania. The mother of these children died on January 17, 1898, at the age of sixty years, having been born on January 19, 1838.

Samuel M. Dickey remained on the home farm until his marriage and then farmed for about sixteen years near Dupont, Ohio, where he built a home. Subsequently, he came to Monroe township to a farm of forty acres, where he now lives. When Mr. Dickey moved to this farm, it was covered with timber and was more or less in a wild condition. He has cleared and ditched the farm, and in 1911 built a fine barn. He owns a fine residence and now has an ideal farm, and is known as one of the best farmers of Putnam county. He takes a great pride in this farm and is known as a good judge of stock. Mr. Dickey believes in progressive farming. He is a capable carpenter and learned this trade for his own benefit, building his own home. He followed contracting in Putnam county for about twelve years, but is no longer engaged in this work.

Samuel M. Dickey was married on April 23, 1879, to Emma Lutz, a native of Putnam county and the daughter of George and Justenia (Weaver) Lutz. To this union, one son, Joseph, has been born. Joseph

married Winifred Hikson and lives at Alexandria, Indiana, where he is a teacher in the high school, now teaching his second term there. He has taught school for several years, and was principal of the school at Continental, Ohio, and also at Mt. Sterling, Ottawa and Wilmington. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in Indiana in 1912, but has never practiced; as he prefers to teach.

At one time, Samuel M. Dickey was active in the Knights of Pythias, but is no longer so. He was a candidate for sheriff in 1905 on the Democratic ticket, but was defeated by a narrow margin. He was, for a period, assessor of Perry township. Although Mr. and Mrs. Dickey are not members of any church, they are moved by strong religious convictions and are Christians, nevertheless. Mr. Dickey is a man of excellent habits and sterling character; is quiet in his manner and conservative in his actions, and is known to be honest and upright in all of his dealings with his fellowmen.

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#### FREDERICK WILLIAM SCHROEDER.

That nothing is impossible to the man of determination and pluck is proved every day, and an example of this is the story of Frederick W. Schroeder, who located on his present farm in 1887 when the land was uncleared and choked with swamps. By hard, persistent effort the land was cleared, drained, fenced and improved until, today, it is one of the model places of the county. The house is modern, being equipped with furnace, electric lights and other conveniences. The barn and other outbuildings testify to the industry of the owner and are a credit to the county.

Mr. Schroeder was born on April 14, 1861, in Greensburg township, Putnam county, the son of Carl and Agnes (Hoenbrink) Schroeder, who were the parents of ten children as follows: Mrs. Anna Siebeneck, Mrs. Mary Meyer, Frank, William, who died in 1900; John, of Liberty township, Putnam county; Frederick W.; Andrew, who died on November 26, 1914; Henry, of Greensburg township; Ignatius, also of Greensburg township, on the old home place, which has been in the family for over eighty years, and Mrs. Theresa Toby, also of Greensburg township.

In 1834 Nicholas Schroeder came to America from Ostercappeln, Germany, bringing with him his son, Carl, who was born on December 22, 1827, and who became the father of Frederick William. Nicholas entered one hundred and sixty acres of government land in Greensburg township, Put-

nam county. The land was wooded and swampy, but by hard work was made into an excellent farm. The land, which was close to the Blanchard river, was drained by Carl, who farmed the place all his life and achieved prominence in the community. He died on September 21, 1908, aged eighty years and eight months.

Agnes Schroeder was a native of Glandorf, Germany, who came to the United States some years later than did her future husband. She was born on February 13, 1826, and died on April 19, 1911, aged eighty-five years, two months and six days. She was a loving mother, who endeared herself to her family and to her neighbors, and her death was regretted by a great number of friends. She and her husband were the parents of the family of children who subsequently proved that the parents reared their children wisely and well.

The youth of Frederick Schroeder was spent on the home farm, and he received a common-school education, supplemented by the experience of hard work. He located on his present farm in 1887 which he immensely improved, and is now devoted to general farming, the raising of grain and the feeding of live stock. The farm on which he lives contains eighty acres, while he owns a place of seventy-four acres in Ottawa township, which he also cultivates.

The marriage of Mr. Schroeder and Regina Moenter occurred on October 26, 1887, his wife being the daughter of Frank and Elizabeth (Wolfhorst) Moenter, who were the parents of nine children: Anna, who died in infancy; Anna Mary, deceased; Regina; Henry B., deceased; Henry, now living on the homestead in Marion township, Allen county, Ohio; Frank, also of Allen county; Mrs. Mary Pohlman, of Allen county; Clara and Rosa, both deceased. To Frederick Schroeder and his wife were born eight children, namely: Agnes, born on February 14, 1889, married Bernard Ellerbrock, and they farm the Ellerbrock homestead, south of Glandorf, in Ottawa township; they have two children, Norbert and Sylvester. The remainder of the children, who live at home are: Cecilia E., born on April 18, 1891; Leo C., born on March 24, 1893; Felix, born on January 5, 1895; Lucy M., born on January 5, 1897; Elenora, born on March 4, 1899; Edward John, born on July 25, 1901; and Clara T., born on September 26, 1904.

Frank Moenter, who also was a native of Germany, was born in 1840 and died in April, 1896. His wife was a native of Fort Jennings, Putnam county, and was born on January 17, 1843, and died on October 5, 1913, at the age of seventy. Frank Moenter came to America when he was about

six years of age, his parents locating on a farm in Marion township, Allen county, Ohio, near Delphos. The original place contained eighty acres, but one hundred and twenty acres were accumulated eventually. He was a popular man, by reason of his fine, unassuming nature.

Mr. Schroeder is a stanch member of the Democratic party, and is affiliated to the congregation of St. Mary's Catholic church. He is a director of the German Mutual Farmers' Fire Insurance Company, of Glandorf, Ohio, which position he has held the last three years. Mr. Schroeder is a quiet-mannered gentleman, with a whole-hearted, unassuming personality, which has gained him many friends.

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### FRANK J. VERHOFF.

Practical industry, wisely and vigorously applied, never fails of success. It carries a man onward and upward, brings out his individuality and acts as a powerful stimulus to others. The greatest results in life are often attained by simple means and the exercise of the ordinary qualities of common sense and perseverance. The every-day life, with its cares, necessities and duties, affords ample opportunities for acquiring experience of the best kind, and its most beaten paths provide a true worker with abundant scope for self-improvement.

Frank J. Verhoff, who is numbered among the sterling citizens and progressive farmers of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, was born on June 22, 1864, on the parental farm in the same township and county. He is the son of Theodore and Elizabeth (Egbers) Verhoff, pioneer residents of Greensburg township. A full account of the paternal ancestry will be found elsewhere in this history of Putnam county, Ohio.

The subject of this review received his education in the schools of Glandorf, Ohio, and in his youth worked on his father's farm, and early learned the secrets of successful agriculture, a vocation to which he has devoted his entire life. He is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of choice farming land, the original tract of eighty acres in section 29 was deeded to him by his father, to which was added, by purchase, forty acres in section 30, and, later, he purchased eighty acres just across in section 29, besides another tract of one hundred and twenty acres, which lies just north of the original farm, forty acres of which is in section 19 and eighty in section 29.

The father had erected the original farm buildings, to which the subject added a number of new buildings, making a total of eight fine farm and residence buildings. Mr. Verhoff does not specialize in the raising of any particular kind of crop, but gives careful attention to the rotation of such crops as interest him, keeping his land in the very best of condition and realizing a harvest that proves his farming profitable.

Frank J. Verhoff was married on November 6, 1889, to Elizabeth Hamberg, who was born in Osnabrock, Province of Hanover, Germany, and is a daughter of Henry and Mary (Mueller) Hamberg, natives of Germany. Mrs. Verhoff came to this country when she was but a child of fourteen, accompanied by a brother, Henry, who settled on a farm near Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. Besides the subject's wife, the maternal parents had four children who remained in the old country, Herman, George, Mary and Bernardina.

Soon after the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Verhoff they took up their residence on the portion of the farm located in section 29, in Greensburg township, Putnam county, and to them were born nine children, named as follow: Magdalena, August 17, 1890; Emma Mary, September 18, 1892; Alphonse T., October 12, 1895; Francis K., July 3, 1898; Loretta Mary, January 17, 1901; Edward W., June 30, 1903; Amos J., October 6, 1906; Urban C., February 1, 1909; and Otham A., June 3, 1912. Of these children, Magdalena became the wife of Charles Recker, and they live on a farm near Glandorf, Ohio. To this union one child was born, Albert U., July 2, 1912. Emma Mary became the wife of Benjamin Recker, and are now living on his farm near Glandorf, Ohio. To this union no children have been born.

Frank J. Verhoff's well-directed efforts in the practical affairs of life, his capable management of all his own interests, and his sound judgment have brought him well-earned prosperity, his life demonstrating what may be accomplished by the man of energy and ambition who is not afraid to work, and who has the perseverance to continue his labors. He raises thoroughbred and Shorthorn Durham cattle and Poland China hogs. Good natured, straightforward, unassuming, he commands the respect of all with whom he comes in contact and his friends are in number as his acquaintances. Politically, Mr. Verhoff is a firm believer in the old-time principles of Democracy; religiously, he is an active member of St. Michael's Catholic church, of Kalida, Ohio, and among the congregation is known to be a liberal donor to all meritorious movements toward the advancement of charity and religion.



## HENRY PHILIP SCHAFER.

Henry Philip Schafer, one of the members of the well-known Schafer family, of Putnam county, Ohio, and a prosperous farmer in Monroe township, is well known in this section of Ohio. In the veins of the Schafer family flows the blood of the German nobility, Henry Philip Schafer being a distant lineal descendant from Baron Hempleman, of Hesse Castle, Germany. Many years ago the Schafer family was founded in this country, where no rank of nobility is recognized, and where the merit of the individual citizen is the measure of his worth. In public and private life, however, the Schafer family in the country of their adoption has fulfilled the worthy traditions of their noble-born ancestors.

Born on September 11, 1864, in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, Henry Philip Schafer is a son of William and Mary (Morris) Schafer, who, at the time of his birth, were residents of North Creek. Mr. Schafer's paternal grandparents, Philip Jacob and Elizabeth Schafer, came to this country from Germany, and here established the family. Philip Jacob Schafer died, about the year 1840, in Koenig Hessen, Darmstadt, Germany. The maternal grandfather, Henry Morris, whose wife was Margaret Morris, was the first judge in Putnam county, Ohio.

Henry Philip Schafer's father, William Schafer, was born at Koenig Hessen, Darmstadt, Germany, on February 4, 1839, and passed away at North Creek, Putnam county, Ohio, January 1, 1903. His devoted wife, Mrs. Mary (Morris) Schafer, the daughter of Judge Morris, and a faithful and loving helpmate throughout his life, was born on August 5, 1845, in Monroe county, Ohio, on October 10, 1902. Of their family of twelve children, seven were sons and five were daughters. All are now living, except Laura May, the next to the youngest, who died on September 1, 1903. The names of these children in the order of their birth are as follow: Henry Philip and John S., of North Creek, Ohio; Mrs. Margaret Jackson, of Gladstone, Michigan; William W., of Greensburg township, Putnam county; George L., of Defiance county, Ohio; Charles C., of North Creek; Mrs. Sarah E. Weller, of Silver Lake, Indiana; Mrs. Mary E. Fenstermaker, of Hillsdale, Michigan; Mrs. Ida L. Hiltner, of Palmer township, Putnam county; Benjamin F., of North Creek, Ohio; Laura May, deceased; and Joseph J., of Adrian, Michigan.

After being educated in the common schools of Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, and especially in District No. 3, of this township, Henry Philip Schafer served as deputy postmaster and railroad express agent at

North Creek, Ohio, from 1881, at the time he was seventeen years old, until 1884, when he was twenty. On October 6, 1888, he moved to his present farm of fifty-three acres in Monroe township, which is located one-half mile west of the original homestead farm. Here Mr. Schafer has farmed ever since. His land is well improved and shows evidence of the careful cultivation which it has received from its owner. For over twelve years Mr. Schafer has served as secretary of the Palmer Mutual Fire Insurance Association, with headquarters at North Creek, Ohio.

One month before he removed to his present farm, on September 6, 1888, Mr. Schafer was married to Martha Weller, a native of Van Buren, Ohio, born on April 7, 1864, the daughter of Dr. Jonathan and Rebecca Weller, the former of whom was born on June 10, 1830, and who died on June 16, 1898, and the latter of whom was born on August 6, 1830, and who died on January 8, 1902. Mr. and Mrs. Schafer are the parents of five children: Louis, born in 1891, was married on August 26, 1913; Mrs. Eva Fenstemaker, born on September 23, 1895, was married on January 20, 1915; Mattie, born on June 11, 1897; Viola, born on July 1, 1901, and Ralph, born on December 10, 1903.

Mr. Schafer is a man of fine and friendly impulses, popular in the neighborhood where he lives, honorable in his dealings with his neighbors, and highly respected by the community at large. He is a worthy descendant of the great family of Baron Hempleman and a patrician at heart, even though the Schafer family no longer bears this name in our American democracy.

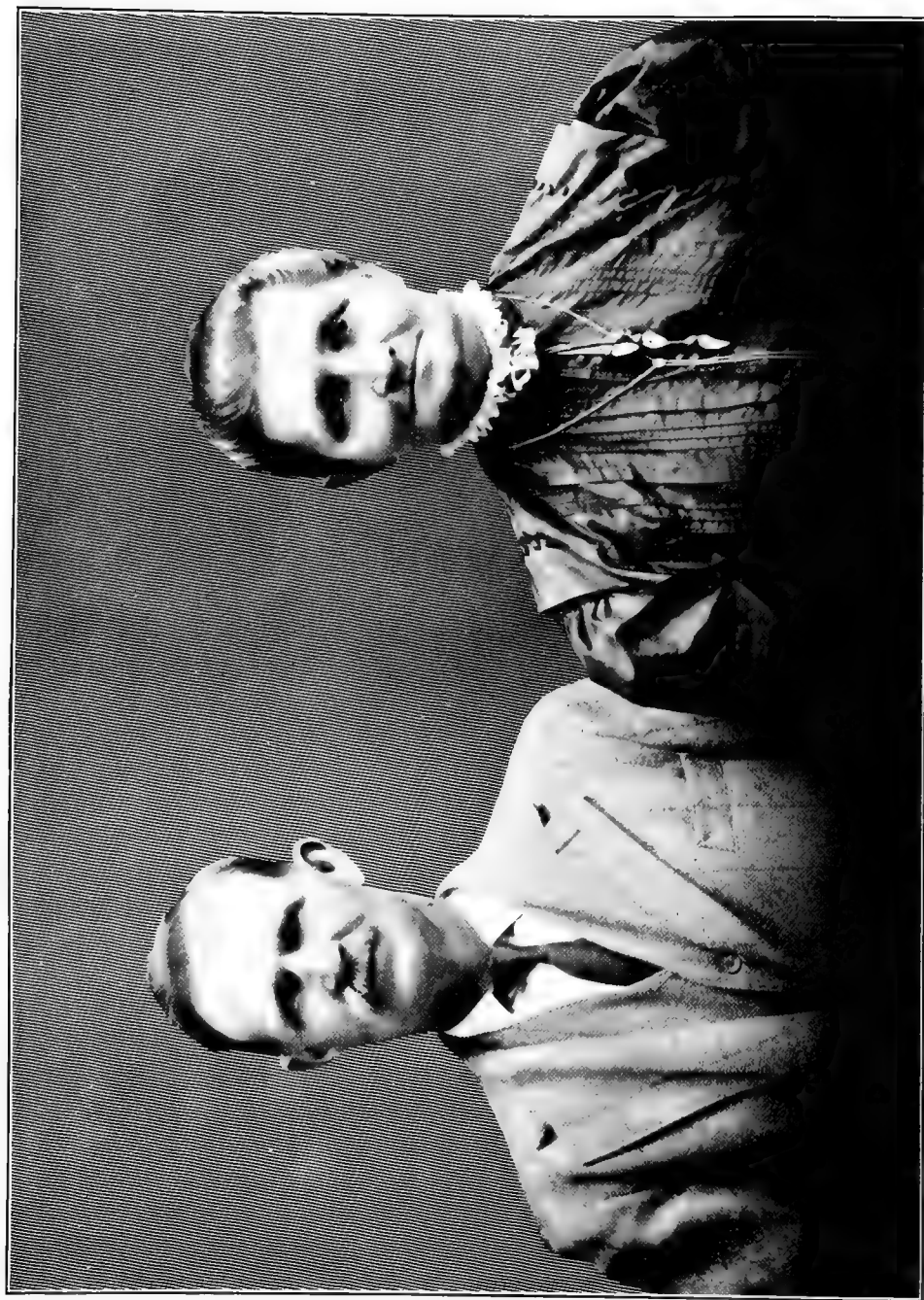
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### JULIUS C. RISSER.

Among those persons who have, by virtue of their strong individual personality, earned their way to a position of high standing in the estimation of their fellow citizens, and who have, by sheer force of character and persistency, acquired a substantial competence in life, is Julius C. Rissér, of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio. Mr. Risser has been active in the agricultural and stock raising affairs, of Putnam county, for many years, and has acquired a position of distinct prominence as a breeder of thoroughbred Belgian horses.

Julius C. Risser was born on February 25, 1864, in Allen county, Ohio, near Rockport. He is the son of Daniel and Elizabeth M. (Smith) Risser, whose family history is to be found elsewhere in this volume in sketches





MR. AND MRS. JULIUS C. RISSEB.



OLD AND NEW RESIDENCES OF JULIUS C. RISSE.







BARN OF JULIUS C. RISSE.



of D. R. Risser, a brother of Julius C., and David Risser, of Riley township, an uncle.

Daniel and Elizabeth M. Risser moved to Sugar Creek township, when Julius C. was only a few months old. Here Julius C. remained until he was twenty-seven years old. It was on the old homestead of his father that he spent his childhood and youth. Here he attended the old Michael district school. Shortly after finishing the common schools he went to the Ohio Northwestern University, at Ada, completing the commercial course. After this he returned to the home farm and assisted his father until his marriage, April 1, 1891.

Julius C. Risser was married to Mary E. Clevenger, who was born on the old Clevenger homestead, south of Vaughnsville, September 15, 1866. She is the daughter of James and Catherine (Vaughn) Clevenger.

After his marriage Julius C. Risser came to his wife's home, where they have resided ever since. Mr. Risser took charge of the Clevenger home place, consisting of one hundred acres, and after his father's death obtained possession of his father's home place of two hundred acres, by buying out the interest of the other heirs. Besides Mr. Risser's land holdings in Sugar Creek township, he also owns a section of six hundred and forty acres in Texas. Mr. Risser is a stockholder in the Peoples Banking Company, of Columbus Grove and Vaughnsville.

Julius C. Risser and wife have had eight children: James Daniel, born on January 26, 1892; Catherine Elizabeth, born on July 2, 1893; Ada May, born on September 29, 1895; Sarah Emma, born on September 17, 1898; Nellie Ruth, born on November 14, 1901; Mary Ellen, born on October 11, 1904; Harry Edwin, born on July 11, 1907, and Grace Pauline, born on April 8, 1911.

Julius C. Risser is the owner of two fine farms, both of which are very highly improved. The old homestead has a very large and commodious barn, forty-two by one hundred feet, and an addition of a substantial cattle barn, thirty by fifty feet. In addition to this, there are other buildings in keeping with the surroundings, including a brick residence of ten rooms. On his present home farm Mr. Risser has good barns and other splendid improvements, including a handsome brick residence of twelve rooms, with all modern conveniences, and equipped with private electric light plant and a water system. It is conceded to be one of the finest country homes in the county. This residence is beautifully situated on the south bank of Sugar creek, one-eighth of a mile south of Vaughnsville. It is a noteworthy fact

that Mr. Risser owes his prominence in the community largely to his own efforts, untiring energy and good business judgment. He has been branching out lately to the breeding of thoroughbred Belgian horses, having recently purchased a magnificent stallion, "Dernier," No. 8673, which won the gold medal at the big horse show of Spa, Belgium, in 1914. He also raises bees and has about one hundred hives, from which he realizes a source of revenue in the sale of honey.

Mr. and Mrs. Risser and family attend the Christian church, of which Mrs. Risser is a member. Mr. Risser is a member of Maccabees Lodge No. 312, at Vaughnsville. Mr. Risser is a Democrat, but has never aspired to office.

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### JOHN T. VERHOFF.

The names Verhoff and Brinkman for several generations have been familiar and respected among the people of Putnam county, the progenitors of these two families having been among the earlier settlers of the county—pioneers who left their impress upon the community in which they lived and labored, in which they wrested from the wilderness, homes for themselves, which have come down to their descendants to the fourth and fifth generations, in all of which time the two names above noted have stood for thrift, energy and directness of purpose. When, in 1899, these two names were linked and united by the marriage of John T. Verhoff and Catherine Brinkman there was much rejoicing among the friends of this worthy couple, for this insured the establishment of another family which should be marked by the same sterling traits as ever had characterized the families of the two thus united. It is eminently fitting, therefore, that in a work of this kind, containing the histories of the leading families of Putnam county, some reference should be made to the life of the gentleman whose name appears above.

John T. Verhoff was born on his father's farm near Glandorf, Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, on April 6, 1871, the son of Theodore and Elizabeth (Egbers) Verhoff, prominent in the life of that part of the county. For further details of the genealogy of the Verhoff family, the reader is referred to the sketch of Theodore Verhoff, father of the subject of this sketch, presented elsewhere in this volume.

John T. Verhoff was reared on the paternal farm and received his edu-

cation in the common schools of Greensburg township and attended for three years the graded school at Glandorf. Until he was twenty-four years of age he lived on his father's farm, after which he moved to a farm owned by his father in section 29, Greensburg township, where he lived with his brothers, Joseph and August, and his sister, Mary, the latter of whom kept house for them. Here he remained, assisting in the work of the farm, for three years, or until his marriage in 1899, after which he moved to the farm in Union township on which he still resides and which he now owns, but which at that time belonged to his father. Though there were comfortable buildings on this farm at the time he took possession, Mr. Verhoff has greatly improved the place, by reconstructing the house and barn better to conform to the modern standard and has put up a number of substantial outbuildings necessary to the proper operation of the farm. On this farm of one hundred and twenty acres, eighty acres of which he bought from his father, the additional forty having been bought later, Mr. Verhoff engages quite successfully in general farming and pays some attention to the raising of full-blooded Jersey cattle. He is industrious and energetic and, with the characteristic Verhoff thrift, has accumulated a fine property.

On August 23, 1899, John T. Verhoff was united in marriage with Catherine Brinkman, the daughter of Henry and Sophia (Ricker) Brinkman, both of whom were born near Glandorf, in this county, the parents of both having come from Germany in the early days of this county's settlement and located in the Glandorf neighborhood, where they joined the other German pioneers in clearing the land for the future generations. Henry and Sophia (Ricker) Brinkman were the parents of nine children, the others, besides Mrs. Verhoff, being: Joseph, Mary, Frank, Barney, Theresa, Bernardina, Anna and Josephine, of whom the first four named are now deceased. The mother of the above children died in 1882 and Mr. Brinkman married, secondly, Caroline Foppe, to which union there were born five children: Henry, Veronica, Helen, Amos (deceased) and Caroline.

To John T. and Catherine (Brinkman) Verhoff have been born the following children: Verona, born on December 30, 1900, died a few days later; Leona, born on May 30, 1902; Mary, born on March 25, 1905; Bernardina, born on October 18, 1906, and Raymond, born on June 10, 1908, the first three named of whom are in school and making diligent use of their excellent scholastic opportunities.

John T. Verhoff and wife are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, and are active in the affairs of that parish, being well known for

their kindness and benevolence. Mr. Verhoff is connected with the Catholic Knights of Ohio and takes an active part in the affairs of that organization. He is one of the substantial men of his section of the county and wields a good influence therein.

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### WILLIAM A. EDELBROCK.

One of the oldest and best known families in Putnam county is the Edelbrock family, one of the members of which the biographer takes pleasure in calling the attention of the reader to at this point in this interesting and valuable biographical volume.

William A. Edelbrock was born March 20, 1863, the son of Henry and Theresa Edelbrock, for the genealogy of whom the reader is referred to the sketch of John Edelbrock, brother of William A., presented elsewhere in this volume.

William A. Edelbrock was reared on his father's farm and received his early education in the neighborhood schools, remaining on the paternal farm until his marriage in 1895, with the exception of two years, during which time he was engaged in the saw-mill business in Greensburg township, this county, and was one of the most popular young men in the neighborhood.

On November 8, 1895, William Edelbrock was united in marriage with Theresa Huster, the daughter of William and Dora Huster, well-known residents of Greensburg township, where Mr. Huster still lives on his farm, his wife having died some years ago, and who were the parents of seven children, Frank, Charles, William, Philomena, Theresa, Elizabeth and Katharine.

Mrs. Edelbrock's father, William Huster, was born in the Province of Hanover, Germany, son of Henry and Elizabeth (Gertker) Huster, who had eight children. Henry and Elizabeth came to this country and settled where their son William now lives. She died here and he moved to Shelby county, Ohio, where he lived until his death. William Huster was married in Glandorf, Putnam county, to Dora Schroeder. She was born in Putnam county, a daughter of Nicholas and Mary Schroeder, who were born in Germany. After marriage, William and Dora (Schroeder) Huster moved to a farm in Greensburg township, and later, after his father had moved to Shelby county, Ohio, he bought the home place from his father in Greensburg township, of sixty acres, and he now owns eighty-seven acres. To William Huster and

wife were born nine children, Frank, Charles, William, Philomena, Theresa (wife of subject of this sketch), Elizabeth, Katrina, all living, and Henry and Maryann, who are dead. Mr. Huster's wife died on January 4, 1911. He still lives on his farm, which is just east of his son-in-law's, Mr. Edelbrock. Mr. Huster's sons manage and develop the farm. All belong to St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf.

Following his marriage, Mr. Edelbrock moved to a farm of forty-seven acres, which he bought in Jackson township, this county, which he improved and on which he remained for four years. He then moved to Greensburg township, where for two years he operated the old Dangler saw-mill. At the end of that time he sold this mill, but later took it over again and moved it to Avis, at which place he bought forty-three acres of land, on which he now operates the mill and engages in general farming. This saw-mill is of modest size and capacity, but turns out a good deal of custom work and has proved not only a great convenience in the neighborhood, but a source of considerable revenue to the owner.

To William A. and Theresa (Huster) Edelbrock there have been born three children: Hulda, born on July 11, 1897; Louis, born on July 25, 1899, and Leonore, born on December 6, 1908, who are the delight of the lives of their devoted parents and the light of their happy home.

William Edelbrock and wife are members of the Catholic church at Glandorf and are rearing their children in that faith. They take an active part in the benevolent affairs of their home parish and are interested in all the good works of the neighborhood, being well liked and popular throughout that entire region.

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#### ASA VARNER.

A great movement cannot be built on one little ship—the Mayflower. It takes a lot of ships and a big lot of people to make a commonwealth. A pyramid cannot be built on its apex, nor a great nation on one ship. Plymouth and Salem and Boston; Providence and Hartford and New Haven; Manhattan, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Jamestown, Raleigh, Charleston and Savannah are the bright and shining stars of the Pilgrim immigration to America; and the Brotherhood of Separationists, of Puritans, of Dutch burgo-masters, of Roman Catholic freemen, of Philadelphia Quakers, of Virginia planters, of Carolina disciples of Locke and Huguenots of Georgia, illustrate the fact that one type of motive makes the world akin. In the very nature

of things, there are in this section of Ohio many descendants of the old Colonial families, the progeny after many generations of those who dared the perils of a new world to obtain the freedom of conscience which their souls panted for. Among these there is one, whose descent on both the maternal and maternal line, is from old Colonial stock, who merits mention in this biographical work, not only on account of his long American lineage, but on account of the character of his labors in this community, and it is a pleasure for the biographer here to engage the reader's attention to a brief and modest review of the life of the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this sketch.

Asa Varner, a well-known and progressive farmer of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, was born on the farm on which he still makes his home and where his whole life has been spent, on September 15, 1853, the son of Jacob and Eliza (Guyton) Varner, the former of whom was born in Paige county, Virginia, of a family that for generations had been prominent in Virginian affairs, and the latter of whom was born in Maryland, a member of a family that had been established in that state in early Colonial days.

Jacob Varner was reared in Paige county, Virginia, the place of his birth, and there grew up as a practical farmer. In the year 1833, when about thirty years of age, he migrated to Ohio, coming to Putnam county, where he entered from the government a tract of one hundred and fifty-five acres in Greensburg township, where he spent the rest of his life, this same farm now being in the possession of his son. Jacob Varner entered upon the task of clearing this farm, which was then covered with a virgin forest. He erected a log cabin, the floor of which was of split slabs, and in that humble dwelling-place he lived and labored alone for several years. Then, seeing his way clear to the establishment of a definite and permanent home, he sought a helpmate and brought to his cabin-home his bride, Eliza Guyton, the daughter of Vincent and Anna Guyton, who had settled on a farm in Ottawa township, this county, having come to this county from the state of Maryland. With this additional incentive to labor, Jacob Varner continued the task of bringing his farm to a proper state of cultivation and quickly had a profitable and productive place, soon becoming one of the best-circumstanced men in that pioneer neighborhood. As circumstances warranted he built new and better buildings on his place and later added to his original holdings an adjoining tract of eighty acres, bringing it all to an excellent state of cultivation, having at the time of his death one of the model farms of Greensburg township. Not only did he prosper on the material side, but he did well his

part in the moral, social and civic life of the community and was looked upon as one of the leaders in that section of the county, both he and his wife being regarded as among the leaders in the communal life. Jacob Varner died in 1895, his wife having predeceased him ten years, her death having occurred in 1885, and both were sincerely mourned in the community of which they so long had been such prominent and active factors.

To Jacob and Eliza (Guyton) Varner were born nine children: Maryann, Ellen, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Barbara, Isaiah, William J., Asa and Ruth, all of whom are still living, save Maryann and Barbara. Maryann married Dr. Hiram Ayres, of Paulding Center, Ohio, where her death occurred; Elizabeth married David Cushman and lives in Michigan; Rebecca married Virgil Bibler and also lives in Michigan; Isaiah married Fannie Lantus and resides in Greensburg township, this county; William J. married Anna Simon and lives in Ottawa.

Asa Varner was reared on the paternal farm and received his early education in the schools of Greensburg township. Upon attaining manhood's estate he continued to remain at home, assisting his father in the management of the place, not marrying until he was thirty-five years of age. After his marriage he continued to remain on the home place, which he inherited upon the death of his father in 1895. Since coming into possession, Mr. Varner has made many notable improvements on the place and now has one of the best equipped farms in Greensburg township, all the appointments of the same being up-to-date and complete.

On October 2, 1887, Asa Varner was united in marriage with Arnolda Greene, daughter of Henry and Mary (Hunter) Greene, the former of whom was born in Athens county, Ohio, and the latter of whom was born in Franklin county, Ohio. Bereft of his mother in his early childhood, Henry Greene was reared by his half-sister, Sarah, and received his education in the schools of Athens county. Upon reaching manhood, he went to Franklin county to work on a farm and there met and married Mary Hunter and three years later came to Putnam county, locating on a farm of forty acres near Fort Jennings. This he later sold and moved to the town of Kalida, where he bought property, at the same time buying forty acres of land in Union township. His wife died during their residence in Kalida, after which Mr. Greene made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Varner, his death occurring on May 12, 1901, two years after the death of his wife. The Greenses were most excellent people and were held in the highest regard by their wide circle of acquaintances. They were the parents of nine children, three of whom died in infancy, the others being: Sarah, William, Silas, Weltha, Mary and

Arnolda, the latter of whom married Mr. Varner. William Greene was a soldier of the Union army during the Civil War, having served for three years in Company G, One Hundred and Sixty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He lived but three days after returning home from the service, his death being due to illness contracted in the army.

To Asa and Arnolda (Greene) Varner have been born five children, as follows: Floyd Ellis, who was born on February 12, 1889, and died on February 16, 1889; Ina Victoria, born on September 16, 1894; Byron Eugene, born on June 9, 1897; Gladys Merle, born on December 3, 1899, and Alfred Clarke, born on July 3, 1902. Gladys and Ina attended the high school at Continental and the latter was graduated from that institution with the class of 1915. Byron assists his father in the management of the farm. In addition to rearing their own family, Mr. and Mrs. Varner have reared three orphans to manhood and womanhood, taking them into their home in their childhood, educating them and giving them happy homes until their marriage, rearing them even as their own children. The three persons thus happily provided for are Arthur Quick, Burt Butler and Gertrude Stevens, all well known in the neighborhood of the Varner home.

The Varner home is noted for its generous hospitality and Mr. and Mrs. Varner are considered as among the leaders in the social life of their community. Kindly and full of Christian charity, they have the regard of all who know them and are highly esteemed throughout that whole section of the country.

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#### FRANK RIEMAN, SR.

There is no vocation in which man may engage which permits of so much independence as that of the agriculturist. Modern methods of farming and a just return for his labors have brought this about. Time was when the farmer was almost looked down upon and when his true position in the economic scheme of the country was little appreciated, but that day is past, and the successful and up-to-date farmer may, if he so desires, have all the advantages worth while which his city brother possesses, and, in addition, have the freedom, the independence and the joy of out-of-doors, which the average city man knows little of.

One of the well-known farmers of Putnam county, Ohio, is Frank Rieman, Sr., the immediate subject of this sketch, who was born in Ottawa township on February 24, 1842, a son of John and Mary (Mehring) Rieman, both natives of Oldenburg, Germany.





MR. AND MRS. FRANK RIEGAN, SR.



John Rieman, when a youth, emigrated from the Fatherland with his parents, the family locating in Cincinnati, Ohio, at which point he married his wife. After remaining there a short time, the family came to Putnam county, settling near Glandorf, and later removing to a farm where the parents passed the remainder of their days. Of the family, Frank Rieman is the only son living at this time, and surviving with him are his three sisters, Bernadina, Anna and Mary. The brothers who have passed from life are John, Ignatius, Barney and Charles.

When a boy, Frank Rieman attended the schools near his home and worked with his father on the home farm. Early in 1866 he was united in marriage to Mary Karhoff, a daughter of Henry and Adelaide (Grothe) Karhoff, both born in the province of Hanover, Germany. Immediately upon arriving in this country, they set out for Putnam county, where they passed the remainder of their days. At first Mr. Karhoff secured employment during the construction of the old canal and then he purchased a farm in Ottawa township, upon which they spent their remaining years. He was but fifty-one years of age at the time of his death, but his widow survived him until she had reached the ripe old age of eighty-six years. Their children were Theresa (deceased), Mary (wife of our immediate subject), Bernadina, Frank, Anna and Philomena.

Shortly after marriage, on April 25, 1866, Frank Rieman and his bride came to the farm where he now lives. Through the passing years this spot has become very dear to him, for her the children were all born and reared and the many happy associations have bound him closely to the spot. The farm home first contained but eighty acres, but Mr. Rieman has added to it until his possessions at the present time total one hundred and ninety acres. This homestead contains splendid buildings, most all of which have been erected by Mr. Rieman, and in addition to his general farming, in which he is highly successful, he specializes to a limited extent in full-blooded Short-horn cattle.

The children of the family are: Philomena, born on March 14, 1867; Ignatius, born on December 6, 1870; Frank, born on November 14, 1872; Andrew, born on November 14, 1874; Charles, born on November 18, 1878, and Clara, born on March 18, 1882. Hubert, the youngest of the family, first saw the light of day on August 25, 1886. Philomena became the wife of Frank Marmon, of Liberty township, this county, and is the mother of two children. Ignatius married Bernadina Schmidt and lives in Union township. They have one child. Frank married Lena Edelbrook and is engaged in farming in Greensburg township. They have three children.

Andrew married Flora Merschman, who has borne him one child. Charles chose Nora Quinn as his life partner and they reside in Indianapolis, Indiana. Clara and Hubert remain under the parental roof.

Mr. Rieman has lived his life so that he is held high in the esteem of all with whom he comes in contact, and the same may well be said of every member of his family. Both he and his good wife are genial, whole-hearted people of a high order of intelligence, and the influence which has emanated from their charming home circle cannot be estimated. The family belong to St. John's, at Glandorf, and Mr. Rieman's political preferences are with the Democratic party, although he finds little time for such matters, as he is thoroughly devoted to his farm. While he is practically retired from active farming, he is still hale and hearty, an intelligent old gentleman and very amiable, as is also his wife.

They have a very attractive farm. He and his wife take great pride in their garden, which furnishes the recreation and interest for them since they have reached advanced years. He has, in the past, served as a member of the school board, but generally has confined his attention to his farm.

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### JOSEPH M. SHANK.

Every state and nation must have its leaders, and we would join the choir of voices which honor their names and achievements. In spite of its numerous industries and commercial interests, wealth, we are told, is, in the last analysis, based upon the soil. If this be true, the back-bone of the American republic is the mass of toilers who have created wealth by converting the waste lands into fertile fields, and have been content to let their lives be the shadowed backgrounds for the heralded deeds of those whom the world calls great. Many such are by the world unknown, but they have filled their niche, and have added much to the common good.

Among those who have helped to make the history of Putnam county, both by reason of their own industry and inherited talent, is Joseph M. Shank. That enterprise characterizes this family, is evidenced by the fact that one uncle built and operated the first grist-mill in the county, and another the first hotel.

Joseph M. Shank was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, January 1, 1839. He is the son of Jonas and Fannie (Myers) Shank.

The father of Mr. Shank was for many years a much-beloved preacher,

being the first ordained minister of the Mennonite faith in Putnam county. The neighbors still relate incidents showing the devotion of this good man to his people. It is said that many times he neglected his business to attend and officiate at funerals or to visit the sick. For twenty-seven years this man went about preaching and doing good. He was born and educated in Maryland, and was twenty-six years old when he came to this county. Having learned to be a skilful blacksmith, he worked several years at this trade in Putnam county, locating on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of government land. This farm is now the home of Samuel Shank. Jonas Shank married in Maryland, before he came west.

Going back another generation, we find that the parents of Jonas Shank and grandparents of Joseph, were Christian and Mary Shank whose home was in Washington county, Maryland, where they spent their entire lives. Four of their children, Henry, Jacob, Christian and Jonas removed in their early manhood to Putnam county, and a daughter, Sophia, also came west and married Henry Myers. They lived on a farm in the same county with their brothers until their death. Three brothers remained in Maryland. They were Fred, Noah and John.

The maternal grandparents of Joseph Shank were John and Mary Myers. John Myers was a German by birth, coming to America before the Revolutionary War, when he was still an energetic wide-awake young man. After his marriage in Maryland where he first settled, he too came west and selected Greensburg township, Putnam county, for his future home. He lived on a farm now occupied by Joseph Prowant. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Myers were: Jacob, Joseph, John, Samuel, Peter and Fannie, the mother of Joseph M. Shank, concerning whom this review is written; Maria, Barbara, Abraham and Christian.

Coming to this county, about 1832, the men of this interesting family all engaged in agricultural pursuits. Samuel it was, however, whose ambition extended beyond the farm to a grist-mill, which was the first to turn the quiet waters of the nearest stream to industrial use. And Peter, with the gregarious tastes, surrounded himself with the social life of a country tavern. This attractive social center was situated where Dupont is now. All of the members of this pioneer family belonged to the faith of their father, the Mennonite church and all have long since passed away.

With this glimpse of the family inheritance of Joseph Shank, it is not surprising to learn that Mr. Shank impressed his personality so strongly upon the community that for many years he inspired its educational interests and held offices which, though political, gave him opportunity for honest and efficient service.

Though he was born and died on a farm, agricultural pursuits did not limit his activities, as the varied interests of his life will show. After leaving school, he began the career of a farmer, first renting a farm. But not content with this, he bought eighty acres, the land on which he now resides. This was in the year of 1864, after three years of residence on rented property. Then began the work that brought out the sturdy characteristics that always elicit admiration. With his own hands, he cleared and drained the land, and erected the buildings in which to house his family and live stock.

Joseph M. Shank was twice married. His first marriage occurred in 1862, when he married Samantha Neill, daughter of John and Anna Neill. Their children were: Seth, Eldon, Emmet, John, Aaron, Albert and Alban. The last two were twins, and died when three years of age. Seth, who became a school teacher, farmer and county clerk, married Margaret Ice, and now lives in Paulding county, Ohio. Eldon married Zella Dangler, and moved to Ashtabula, Ohio. Their children are: Lester, Paul, William, Cleota, Elizabeth, Alice and Joseph. Emmet has had the responsible position of conductor on the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railroad for over twenty years. He married Callie Burkett, who became the mother of three boys, Harold, Ralph and Joseph. Their home is in Lima, Ohio. John, who married Creta Schuler, is also a railroader. His home is in Lima, Ohio. Lela Hill became the wife of Aaron, whose residence is in Lima, Ohio. Aaron is a skilled mechanic.

Joseph M. Shank's first wife passed away in 1878. Seven years later he married Sarah Kirkendall, daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Kirkendall, of Putnam county, formerly of Columbiana county, Ohio. This marriage occurred on August 12, 1885.

An interesting circumstance connected with the family history of the second Mrs. Shank is that her grandfather lived to be one hundred and five years old. He and his wife moved from Columbiana county to Putnam county where they lived only two years, returning then to their former home where they died. Their children were: Benjamin, Edward, Van Anna, Elizabeth, Rebecca, John and Daniel.

The maternal grandparents of the second Mrs. Shank were John and Ruth Crawford, residents of Columbiana county, where they lived and died. Their children were: David, Perry, Samuel, who was killed in the Civil War; Sarah and Elizabeth, who was the mother of Sarah Kirkendall Shank. Mrs. Shank's family figures prominently in the early history of Ohio, as she comes from a line of fighters, among whom was Colonel Crawford, who was captured by the Indians and burned at the stake.

The children born to the second marriage of Joseph Shank were Ora, Bessie and Loa. Ora, who is an electrical engineer and lives in New Haven, Connecticut, became the husband of Elmer Trench; Bessie, the second daughter, has remained single, as has also her sister Loa. All of Mr. Shank's children received their education in the county in which they lived. Bessie became a well-known and much liked school teacher and is now a book-keeper for the Buckeye Company at Continental, Ohio.

Mr. Shank's brothers and sisters, Susan and Mary, were born in Maryland. Of these, the former married H. S. Mellinger, a farmer living in Putnam county. Mary became the wife of S. W. Neill, and lived until her death where Joseph Neill now lives. Elizabeth married Jacob Stauffer and they made their home in Richland county until the latter was killed in the Civil War. A successful farmer in this county is Christian, the husband of Catherine Shank Brenneman. John, who married a Miss Hoover, who was then engaged in teaching school, is still living and making his home on a farm. Samuel married Nannie Donavon and resided in Greensburg township. Barbara Ridenour became the wife of Jonas Shank, and they are living near Kalida, Ohio. Veronica, the youngest sister of Mr. Shank, married David Smith and now lives in Dupont.

Joseph M. Shank always took a deep interest in matters concerning the schools, and it was this interest that led his friends and the citizens in general to make him a school director. During his term of office, the school work of the county was placed upon a higher and more efficient plane than it had formerly occupied. That he found time for public office is evidenced by the fact that for eleven years, Mr. Shank was township assessor and for twelve years served as township trustee.

In national politics, Mr. Shank may be classed as a militant Democrat of the old school, but he reserves the right to exercise independence when it comes to voting in local elections. In religious matters, Mr. Shank casts his lot with the Methodists, and contributes of his means to that denomination.

As a farmer, his interests have been for years along the line of raising fine live stock, and for miles around, the traveler hears of his splendid Chester White hogs, which are of excellent breed.

In spite of his advanced years, Mr. Shank is very active both mentally and physically. He personally superintends matters pertaining to the farm, and yet finds time to read and keep abreast with the times. Both he and his wife, who comes of Revolutionary stock, are among those who are most greatly esteemed in the community in which they and their families have lived.

## SAMUEL D. HENSEL.

Biography does more than give voice to a man's modest estimate of himself and his accomplishments. Its function is to leave upon the pages of history the verdict of his neighbors and friends, with reference to his character and reputation in the community where he has lived. The life history of Samuel D. Hensel, the present postmaster at Continental, Ohio, has been such as to elicit just praise from his neighbors and from the men who know him best. He has always been loyal to every trust imposed upon him and has been upright in all of his dealings with his fellows. While he has prospered in a personal way, at the same time, he has always given his support towards promoting any cause which might advance the welfare of the community at large. Samuel D. Hensel is a man well known in Putnam county.

Samuel D. Hensel was born, December 18, 1867, in Perry township, and is the son of George and Catherine (Smith) Hensel. George Hensel was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, and grew up there. He came to Delaware county, Ohio, early in life and remained there for four years. He was reared as a farmer and made this his vocation while living in Delaware county. On September 13, 1861, George Hensel was married in Delaware county, and immediately after his marriage, he moved to Putnam county, settling in Perry township on sixty acres of land. He lived upon this farm for nine years, then sold it and removed to Monroe township. Here he farmed eighty acres until his death on March 16, 1892, at the age of sixty-three years. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Dupont, Ohio, for over thirty-five years. He served as constable for many years. During a long period he displayed a keen interest in out-of-door sports. He was an active worker in the United Brethren church at Prairie Chapel, Union township.

Mrs. Catherine Hensel, who before her marriage was Catherine Smith, a native of Delaware county, Ohio, was born on November 7, 1833. She was the daughter of Gilbert and Nellie (Cortwright) Smith. Mr. and Mrs. George Hensel were the parents of six children: Warner, who died on July 4, 1872; Harry, who lives at Jeffersonville, Indiana; Samuel D., the subject of this sketch; Manford, who died on March 18, 1900; Sherman, who died in infancy; and George, who lives at home, but works in Lima, Ohio. Mrs. Hensel's father, Gilbert Smith, was born in New York state and left there alone at the age of twenty-one, walking with his worldly



possessions, tied in a handkerchief, to Worthington, Franklin county, Ohio, where he located. Here he learned the tanner's and shoemaker's trades, which he followed for some time. Later, he removed to Delaware county, Ohio, purchased land and farmed until his death in 1887. He had a tannery on his farm. His wife, who before her marriage, was Nellie Cortwright, was born in Lower Canada in 1799, and grew up there, coming to America at the age of fourteen years with her parents and settling in Delaware county, where they died. They came to this country during the Indian and British war, driving over Lake Erie on the ice in a sleigh. Mrs. Smith died in 1892. She was the mother of seven children, Laura, Julia, Amanda, Charles B., David, Catherine and Cicerio. All of these children are deceased with the exception of Catherine, who is the mother of Samuel D.

George Hensel, the father of Samuel D., was the son of George and Mary (Howell) Hensel, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania, and the latter of Union county, Ohio. He came from Pennsylvania to Union county, Ohio, and there settled on a farm. Before his death, he had accumulated two large farms and was considered a successful farmer. He died on the old homestead, as did also his wife.

Samuel D. Hensel left home at the age of fifteen years and worked out by the month, but lived at home and paid his own way. He learned the carpenter trade and followed it for some time before his marriage. He also made bent wagon rims for nine years. For one year he was employed on the Nickel Plate railroad as a brakeman on both freight and passenger trains. He grew up in Perry township and here he received his education. With the exception of one year spent in Hancock county, he has always lived in Putnam county. The first year after Mr. Hensel's marriage, he lived at McComb, in Hancock county. After this he moved back to Putnam county and settled in Monroe township, on a farm of one hundred acres, which he bought. He farmed this one hundred acres for about twenty-two years and then sold out. He now has thirty-five acres near Continental, Ohio, and one hundred and four acres in Canada. After Mr. Hensel's election as postmaster, in 1914, he held a sale, selling all of his farm tools, fine animals, machinery, etc., and then leased the farm to a tenant. He built a splendid residence in Continental, Ohio, where he now resides.

Mr. Hensel was married February 8, 1890, to Martha Boggs, a native of Monroe township, born in 1869, and the daughter of Madison Boggs. To this happy union, eight children have been born, all of whom are at home.

They are as follow: Forrest, Blanche, Francis, Lyle, Maude, Clyde, Katie and Grover.

Fraternally, Mr. Hensel is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Oakwood, Ohio. He is also a member of the Encampment and the Daughters of Rebekah. He served one term as trustee of Monroe township and was also township supervisor and a member of the school board for a number of years. Mr. Hensel was elected postmaster in July, 1914, and is making an efficient record in this office. He is a stanch and active Democrat and for four years was one of the committeemen of the Democratic party, serving efficiently in this capacity. He has been for the past four years a member of the Mutual Telephone board. Although Mr. Hensel is not a member of any church, he was reared in the Methodist faith. He is a congenial, jolly man and decidedly well met, always carrying a smile, at the same time bearing a high reputation in the community where he lives as a man of intelligence, charity and honorable, upright habits.

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### JOSEPH VOGEL.

Joseph Vogel, a sturdy offspring of the Fatherland, first saw the light of day in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, in 1856. He was a son of Anton and Katherine (Kramer) Vogel, both natives of Germany, the former having been born in Hesse and the latter in Gerolstein, and was one of their family of four children, the others being Katie, Clara and Anna. Both Katie and Clara have passed from this life, and Anna resides in Canton, Ohio, where she is the wife of John Buch.

Anton Vogel, father of Joseph Vogel, was a young man when he emigrated from his native land to this country, and as a youth had mastered the baker's trade in his native land. After coming to this country he conducted a bakery in Allegheny, Pennsylvania, where the family lived for some time and where all the children were born. The death of his wife occurred at that place, after which he went to Cincinnati, Ohio. He enlisted in the regular army of the United States shortly after going there, and while he was in the service in the Southwest served during the Indian uprisings. After the war he returned to Cincinnati.

Joseph Vogel was but six years old at the time of the death of his mother. His father brought him to Putnam county, Ohio, and placed him in charge of his maternal uncle and aunt, Anton and Eva Kramer, brother





JOSEPH VOGEL.



RESIDENCE OF JOSEPH VOGEL.



and sister. They were living on the place which is now occupied by Mr. Vogel. Neither being married, they gave to the boy placed in their care the best of love and attention. Making his home with them as he did, he attended the schools of the neighborhood whenever possible, while he assisted his uncle in clearing land and getting it into a state of cultivation, which included more or less draining. When quite a youth he did a man's work on the farm, and today enjoys relating some of his experiences in chopping trees when a boy. He worked one entire day in chopping at a giant of the forest before it was felled.

When twenty-one years of age Mr. Vogel was united in marriage to Anna Osage, a daughter of Frederick and Catherine (Huester) Osage, who resided on a farm one mile southwest of his home. There were four children in the Osage family, the others being Theresa, Mary and William. Theresa became the wife of Joseph Knueve, of Kalida, this county; Mary resides in Michigan, and William lives at Lima, this state. After marriage Joseph Vogel continued to live on the farm where he had been reared as a boy. On the day he attained his majority his uncle presented him with eighty acres of land, and later a partnership was formed when they purchased eighty acres additional. At the death of his uncle he inherited from him one hundred and sixty acres, making his entire holdings at the present time two hundred and forty acres. Anton Kramer departed this life in February, 1902, at the age of seventy-eight years. The aunt died some years previous, in 1885.

Mr. Vogel's wife died in 1881, leaving two small children, Mary, born on June 3, 1879, and Theresa, born on September 9, 1880, the latter being about four months old at the time of the death of her mother. Mr. Vogel proved a most devoted father to his two little motherless girls and reared them to a beautiful young womanhood. Mary became the wife of Frank Unverfurth, son of Anton Unverfurth, and lives in Greensburg township, and Theresa married Henry Dickman, a son of William and Anna (Spielbrink) Dickman. Henry Dickman is a native of the German Empire, having been born in Hanover, and was one year old when he was brought to this country by his parents. They came directly to this county and for a time lived in Glandorf, later locating on a farm near Ottoville. Henry began attending the district schools as soon as of suitable age, and until the time he was twenty-three years old he assisted his father in the work of the home farm. At that age he was married, and since that time he and his wife have made their home with Joseph Vogel, and assist him in the man-

agement of the homestead. Henry Dickman and wife are the parents of three children, as follows: Sylvester Joseph, born on January 18, 1905; Armella Mary, born on November 18, 1910, and Junilla Catherine, born on December 30, 1913.

Within the last few years Mr. Vogel has erected a new residence on his farm and has built and repaired most of the outbuildings, so that at the present time it presents an attractive and up-to-date appearance. He and his son-in-law give considerable attention to general farming, following approved twentieth-century methods. In addition to farming, Mr. Vogel specializes in a fine strain of Hereford cattle, having produced many excellent bulls.

Mr. Vogel's political preference is with the Democratic party, although he has never found time to devote to any special work in that line. Both himself and family are communicants of the Roman Catholic church, and the entire family stands high in the esteem of the community. He attends the St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf. Mr. Vogel is still vigorous, is good natured, and with his daughter and grandchildren form a happy family circle.

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#### JOSEPH C. VERHOFF.

Among the families of Putnam county, whose members have worthily discharged their duties to their fellows and their community, no family takes higher rank than the Verhoffs, of whom several representatives are, today, prominently identified with the farming and rural social life of Greensburg township. For many years, members of this large family have stood for all that is best in business, moral and social life, and have wielded an influence that has been potential in the development and welfare of their community, being numbered among the enterprising and progressive citizens of the county. Because of the prominence which the family has enjoyed and the close relations they have sustained to the welfare and prosperity of the locality which has been honored by their citizenship, they are eminently entitled to representation in a work of the character of the one in hand.

Joseph C. Verhoff was born on his father's farm, Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, on March 15, 1873, and is the son of Theodore and Elizabeth (Egbers) Verhoff, pioneer settlers of Putnam county, and whose history of early life is to be found elsewhere in this volume. The subject of this sketch was one of the twelve children of Theodore Verhoff and his



early days were spent on his father's farm, where he assisted in the large amount of clearing necessary to make the farm productive and profitable. He received his education in the township schools and remained with his parents until he became twenty-two years of age. While on the original farm, the father purchased an eighty-acre tract for Joseph C. Verhoff in Union township, also another eighty acres for the use of his brothers. Owing to the distance between farms, the subject of this review, at the age of twenty-two, moved to the farm operated by his brother, August G. Verhoff, where he made his home until the time of his marriage, on October 25, 1910, when Amelia Schroeder became his wife. They are the parents of one child, Mary, born on February 24, 1914. Mrs. Verhoff was the daughter of John and Mary (Kahle) Schroeder, natives of Putnam county, Ohio. John Schroeder was the son of Henry and Katrina Schroeder, natives of Germany, who came and settled in Greensburg township, Putnam county, in an early day. To them were born: Frank, Charles, William, John, Ignatius, Mathias, Katrina, Dora, Mary (deceased), Anna, Theresa, Clara (deceased) and Philomena (deceased), the latter two having died very young. Mrs. Mary (Kahle) Schroeder's parents were John F. and Bernadina Kahle, natives of Hanover, Germany, and who came to this country, settling in Putnam county at about the time the town of Glandorf, Ohio, was founded by the well-known Professor Horstman. To Mr. and Mrs. Kahle were born: Frank, Ignatius, Paulina, Bertha, Bernadina, Theresa, Amalia and Mary. To Mr. and Mrs. John Schroeder, the subject's wife's parents, were born: Katrina, Bernadina, Veronica, Amalia, Mary, Bertha, Philomena, Hilda, August, Frank, Herman, John and George.

Soon after the marriage of Mr. Verhoff to Amalia Schroeder, they moved to the farm in section 29, Greensburg township, which was purchased from his brother, Henry. This consisted of eighty acres of undeveloped land, but which was put in first-class condition by the installation of a system of drainage. On this place they erected the number of buildings absolutely necessary; being handicapped financially, but with true German industry and thrift, they were able to overcome the many obstacles to progress, and today they can point to their place with no small degree of pride, the profitable results of their farm being due to their untiring energy and endeavor to succeed in spite of discouraging conditions. Besides carrying on the business of general farming, Mr. Verhoff is giving considerable attention to the raising of Short-horn cattle.

Politically, Mr. Verhoff gives his support to the Democratic ticket, but does not take active part in politics. Religiously, the family belongs to St.

Michael's Catholic church, Kalida, Ohio. In conclusion, it is quite opportune to mention that the subject is a man of keen observation and mental ability, is genial and unassuming and makes friends easily. His circle of acquaintances throughout the county is large. He is a man of good habits, ambitious, of kindly impulses and deservedly popular in the community.

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### JOSEPH WARNECKE.

The success of men in agriculture, or in any vocation, in fact, depends upon industry, economy and wise judicious management. Moreover, success depends upon character as well as upon knowledge. The business relations of life demand confidence, and where that is lacking, business ceases. In every community, some men are known for their upright lives and remarkable common sense. Their neighbors and acquaintances respect them and heed their example. They win their way as a consequence of their untiring energy and correct principles of conduct and retain the respect of their fellow men by genuine work. Among the residents of Putnam county, Ohio, who have won for themselves success in agriculture, is Joseph Warnecke of Union township.

Joseph Warnecke was born near Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, on March 15, 1870. He is the son of Henry and Christina (Verhoff) Warnecke. Henry Warnecke was born on a farm near Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, of German parents, who were early settlers in this part of the county. After he was married, he moved to Union township, in what is now section 2, on a farm of eighty acres. He erected buildings and cleared and drained the land. Afterward he acquired more land as follows: Ninety-six acres in Union township, one hundred and forty acres in Fort Jennings, forty acres in section 2, in Union township, twenty acres in section 2, in Union township, and sixty acres in section 2, in Union township. He continued to live in Union township until his death, which occurred on September 4, 1907. His wife had died previously, about 1895. Both were buried in the cemetery at Glandorf. Henry Warnecke's wife, who, before her marriage, was Christina Verhoff, was the daughter of Francis and Mary (Kramer) Verhoff, and the sister of Theodore Verhoff. Mrs. Warnecke's grandparents, on her father's side, were born and lived and died in Germany. On her mother's side, they were Theodore and Gertrude (Veraking) Kramer, who were married in Germany, and who,

after residing there for many years, came to this country when the elder Kramer was about fifty years old. They settled on a farm in Putnam county and had six children, William, Henry, Catherine, Christina and Mary, all of whom are now deceased, and Frederick, who still survives. Francis Verhoff, the father of Mrs. Christina (Verhoff) Warnecke, was born in Westphalia, Prussia, and came to America in 1836. He settled near Glandorf, Putnam county, on a tract of twenty-six acres. He was a blacksmith by trade and became a first-class workman. Francis Verhoff and Mary Kramer were married in 1837. They had ten children, Theodore, Gertrude, Christina, Catherine, Mary Ann, Frank, Henry, William, deceased; Charles and William. The father of these children, prior to his death in 1863, owned a full section of land. Francis Verhoff's wife lived until 1901. They were loyal members of the Roman Catholic church, attending St. John's church of Glandorf.

The children of Henry and Christina (Verhoff) Warnecke were Mary, Frank, deceased; William, John, Joseph, Henry, Charles, Anthony, Theresa, Philomena and Bernard. Mary married John Tenwalde, and they live in Union township; Frank, who is deceased, married Anna Hersing, and they lived at Kalida; William married Mary Lauf; they lived in Fort Jennings; John married Mary Eggeman, and they lived at Ottoville; Henry married Katherine Goedde, and they live near Miller City; Charles married Catherine Siefper, and they in Union township; Anthony married Mary Barlager, and they live in Union township; Theresa married Frank Dulle and lives near Miller City; Philomena married Herman Lucke, and they live near Miller City, and Bernard married Martha Marmon and they live in Pleasant township.

Joseph Warnecke, the subject of this sketch, attended the Fortman school, in Union township, and lived on his father's farm until his marriage. He was married on April 28, 1897, to Mary Smith, a daughter of Joseph and Theresa (Kahle) Smith. Mrs. Warnecke's parents were married in Glandorf, Putnam county, and, after their marriage, moved to a farm in Union township, where he still lives on the farm. He owns two hundred and ten acres. He erected all the buildings on the farm he now owns. The children of Joseph and Theresa (Kahle) Warnecke are as follow: Mary, Elizabeth, Bernadina, Theresa, Helena (deceased), Amalia, Paulina (deceased), and Frances, deceased. Bernadina married Ignatius Rieman and they live in Union township; Helena married Henry Erhart and they live in Union township; Amalia married John Missler, of Union township, and they reside with Mrs. Warnecke's father, Joseph Smith; Frances mar-

ried Harry Nienberg, and she died three months after her marriage. The mother of these children, Mrs. Joseph Smith, died on November 25, 1914, and is buried in the cemetery at Kalida.

After his marriage, Joseph Warnecke moved to a farm of ninety-six acres in section 1, Union township. This farm formerly belonged to his father, from whom he bought the farm shortly before his marriage, and built a house besides many other buildings. He has also drained the land.

To Joseph and Mary (Smith) Warnecke nine children have been born, Leonard, born on March 27, 1898; Joseph W., born on November 22, 1899; Odelia, born on September 19, 1902; Urban, born on September 18, 1904; Leo, born on September 28, 1906; Walter, born on June 30, 1908; Mary F., born on May 1, 1910; Helena, born on April 13, 1912, and died at the age one year; Aloysius, born on June 19, 1914.

Mr. Warnecke is engaged in general farming. He owns one hundred and thirty-six acres of land. Mr. Warnecke and his family are all members of the Catholic church. They attend St. John's Catholic church, at Glandorf. Mr. Warnecke belongs to St. John's Benevolent Society. Mrs. Warnecke belongs to the Mothers' Society of the church. Joseph Warnecke has served on the school board as a director for many years. He is a prosperous, substantial farmer, who comes from a splendid family and who is highly respected for his many good qualities.

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#### WILLIAM H. EDELBROCK.

Not alone are those worthy of historical honors who have moved along the loftier planes of action, but to an equal extent are those deserving who are of the rank and file of the world's workers, for they are not less the conservators of public prosperity and material advancement. Through all the generations of life, recognition should be had of the true values, then should full appreciation be manifested, for there can be no prosperity, if it be done justly, in scanning the acts of any man, as they affect his public, social and business relations. Here will be found mention of worthy citizens of all vocations, and at this juncture we are permitted to offer a resume of the career of one of the substantial and highly esteemed representatives of the agricultural interests of Putnam county, where he has spent his entire life and where he has not only attained a high degree of

success in his chosen field of labor and enterprise, but also established an imperishable reputation for uprightness in all the relations of life.

William H. Edelbrock was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, August 12, 1861, and is the son of Andrew and Catherine (Herlage) Edelbrock. His paternal grandparents were natives of Prussia and came to this country soon after their marriage in 1834. On their arrival in this country, they decided to settle near the town of Glandorf, Ohio, which a few years previously was laid out as a village settlement by the well-known Professor Horstman, who came to that point in Putnam county with his little band of colonists. To the paternal grandparents were born: William, Henry, Frank, Charles, Christina, Andrew and two others who died en route during the voyage to America. The maternal grandparents were also natives of Prussia and came to Putnam county some time prior to their marriage. They were married in Glandorf, Ohio, and settled on a farm in Greensburg township, Putnam county, where they lived until their death. To them were born: Catherine, Helena, Mary and Anna, all deceased.

The father of the subject of this review was but a boy of six when his parents settled in this county near Glandorf. From this time forth he attended the school in Glandorf and lived with his parents, until the time of his marriage. After his marriage, he decided to live on a farm he purchased and which consisted of eighty acres in Greensburg township. At a later date he sold this farm, and in 1870 moved to a farm of two hundred and forty acres in Jackson township. In 1907 he moved to the town of Kalida, this county, where he bought five acres at the edge of the town, and lived a life of retirement. His death occurred on July 6, 1913, and his wife died in Jackson township on August 20, 1892. To them were born twelve children, William H., Mary, Frank, Anna, who died April 23, 1915, at the age of forty-nine years; Ignatius, Albert, Emma, Barney, Helena, John, Peter and Amalia, the last five named being also deceased.

William H. Edelbrock attended the schools in Jackson and Greensburg townships and lived on his father's farm during his youth and until he was about twenty-four years of age. On October 25, 1885, he was married to Clara Lemper, a daughter of William and Clara (Drop) Lemper, whose father was born in Glandorf, Germany, and the mother in Averferden, Germany. They came to this country soon after their marriage and in 1868 settled on a forty-acre farm near Glandorf, Ohio, where they continued farming, Mr. Lemper having been a practical farmer in the old

country. To the original forty they subsequently added more land and lived a very peaceful, successful life on the place until their death. To them were born: Clara, William, Agnes, Mary, and a son who died in Germany.

Soon after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Edelbrock moved to the present resident farm which they own and which contains forty acres, located in section 7 of Union township. On this place they erected all of the buildings, previous to which they had partly cleared and drained the land for general farming purposes. In addition to farming, Mr. Edelbrock takes great pride in his Jersey cattle, which he raises on a limited scale. He also maintains beehives of pure Italian and mixed strains, to which feature he devotes some attention and takes a great deal of pride in them. Mrs. Edelbrock devotes some attention to poultry, including thoroughbred Rhode Island Reds.

Mr. and Mrs. Edelbrock are members of St. Michael's Catholic church of Kalida, and are well known and highly esteemed by all who know them. Mrs. Edelbrock is regarded as a woman of gracious manner, genial disposition and known to be a true help-mate to her worthy husband. Mr. Edelbrock, genial and unassuming in manner, easily wins friends, and always retains them. He has served as councilman in St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, and is connected with St. Joseph's Benevolent Society. Because of his high personal qualities and farming success, he is eminently entitled to representation in a work of this character.

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#### ALEX DANGLER.

It is by no means an easy task to describe, within the limits of this review, a man who has led an active and eminently useful life, and, by his own exertions, reached a position of honor in the line of industries with which his interests are allied. But history finds justification, nevertheless, in the tracing and recording of such a life history, as the public claims a certain property interest in the career of every individual, and the time invariably arrives when it becomes advisable to give the right publicity. It is, then, with a certain degree of satisfaction that the writer essays the task of touching briefly upon such a record as has been that of the subject who now comes under this review.

Alex Dangler, one of the well-known and enterprising citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, was born in Perry township, this county, August 6,



MR. AND MRS. ALLEN DAngLER.





1876, and is the son of John Adams Dangler and Jane (Shook) Dangler, both of whom are natives of Putnam county. The father of John Adams Dangler was a native of Pennsylvania, and his wife a native of Germany. They removed to the state of Ohio and became early settlers in Greensburg township, Putnam county, where they lived until the time of their death. The wife of the subject's father was the daughter of John and Elnora Shook, who were early resident farmers of Putnam county and where they remained until taken away by death.

John Adams Dangler remained under the parental roof for many years, assisting in clearing the wooded lands of the farm and getting it in shape for general farming. He received his education in the county schools of Greensburg township. He was married in 1875 to Jane Shook and to them were born three children, Alex, Mabel and Edith. Alex Dangler's father, after his marriage, went to live on the eighty acres in Perry township where his daughter Edith now lives with her husband, Stewart Brower. He remained on this place for a term of thirty-six years, draining and developing the land, after which he removed to the town of Continental, Ohio, where he purchased twenty acres within the corporate limits of the town. To this he devotes most of his time and attention, but still retains ownership in the eighty acres heretofore mentioned. From time to time the subject's father owned more land than is recorded her. His daughter Mabel became the wife of Manford Shank, who resides in Ashtabula county, Ohio, and they have a family of six children. Mr. Dangler, Sr., is a supporter of the Democratic party, takes an active interest in the affairs of the community and is well liked by every one. The influence of this gentleman and his ancestors will be felt throughout this region for many years to come.

Alex Dangler was reared on his father's farm, in Perry township, attending the neighboring country schools for a number of years, preparatory to entering college. He attended Crawfis College for one term, then went to Angola College for four terms. He was married, on March 21, 1898, to Clara Fender, a daughter of Michael and Laura (Huber) Fender, who were natives of Henry and Trumbull counties, Ohio, respectively. Michael Fender was born on October 8, 1846, and Laura (Huber) Fender was born on October 10, 1852. They lived on a farm in Henry county, Ohio, immediately after their marriage, but later moved to a farm in Ionia county, Michigan, and from there to a farm, which he purchased, consisting of two hundred acres, in Mecosta county, Michigan, where he died in October, 1910, and where his widow still resides on one hundred and sixty acres of the original purchase. To them were born seven children: Mary C., born

on February 3, 1872, died nine months later; Emma Jane, born on August 19, 1873; Daisey Allvoretta, born on September 15, 1874; Zella Della, born on October 25, 1879; John, born on July 18, 1879; Ricky, born on August 30, 1880; Austin Le Roy, born on July 12, 1884. Out of the two hundred acres there were forty acres deeded to the son, Austin, with whom the mother lives in Mecosta county. Of these children, Emma became the wife of Peter DesGranges and resides in Big Rapids, Michigan; Daisy married Charles Spence and resides in Grand Rapids, Michigan; Della married Edward DesGranges and resides in Henry county, Ohio; John married Gertrude Fisher and resides in the town of Coral, Michigan; Austin married Stella Huff and makes his home on the original farm in Mecosta county.

After Alex Dangler's marriage to Clara Fender he remained for a while on his father's place, rented various fields and then decided to follow the saw-mill and threshing business, according to seasons, and which business he continued for about twelve years. Being a man of keen observation and with an eye to increasing his income, he saw possibilities of greater earnings by engaging himself to the firm of Miller & Stallkamp, jobbers of heavy machinery, as a salesman. While in the employ of this company he covered territory consisting of Putnam, Paulding, Van Wert, Allen, Henry, Hancock and other counties, in Ohio, and this experience gave him a fine opportunity for getting acquainted with a larger number of people, which served him to a good advantage. After these years of practical selling and business experience, he decided to return to the business of farming and settled on his present place of residence. This place was purchased by the father in 1895, one-half of which was deeded to his son, Alex, on January 18, 1901, and the other half to his sister. Great credit is due to Alex Dangler for the vast improvements made to this farm, and particular mention should be made of the up-to-date barn building, which is equipped with all kinds of modern improvements. This energetic, wide-awake and business-like farmer, not being satisfied to simply till the soil and raise stock, makes it his business to carry a line of farm necessities, such as silos, milking machine, automobiles, gasoline engines, silo fixtures and other late inventions to bring the business of farming up to the highest point of efficiency with the least human energy. In the sale of silos, it is said that Mr. Dangler has made more sales of these than any other agent for a similar line in the northwestern portion of the state of Ohio.

Mr. Dangler and wife are blessed with a good-sized family, consisting of eight living children, and his wife is found to be a woman of the best type, intelligent and amiable in disposition. The children are: Glen, born

on February 2, 1901; Evelyn, born on September 9, 1902; Paul, born on November 1, 1903; Laura Jane, born on January 1, 1906; Hazel Rita, born on May 30, 1908; Marvin LeRoy, born on December 18, 1909; Dale Maurice, born on April 28, 1911; Mary Maxine, born on April 11, 1913; Nelo, born on December 22, 1898, who died January 9, 1906.

Manifesting an abiding interest in the material welfare of the county, Mr. Dangler has given his influence and assistance to all enterprises with this object in view, and he also takes an active part in promoting all worthy means and measures for the advancement of his fellow man. All in all, he is a worthy representative of the steady, intelligent and progressive class that gives stability and character to the community, being broad-minded, with wide views of affairs and men and a true type of the enterprising American citizen of today.

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### JOHN W. EDWARDS.

To a great extent the prosperity of the agricultural sections of our country is due to the honest industry, sturdy persistency and unswerving perseverance and wise economy which so prominently characterizes the farmers of the Buckeye state. Among this class of farmers may be mentioned John W. Edwards, the subject of this sketch, who, by reason of his years of indefatigable labor and honest efforts, has not only acquired a well-merited competence in life, but who has earned the high esteem of all with whom he is associated.

John W. Edwards, a native of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, was born on January 5, 1871. He is the son of Josiah and Susan (Breese) Edwards, the former of whom was born in Montgomeryshire, North Wales, May 30, 1826, and who was the son of Josiah and Margaret (Jones) Edwards. Josiah Edwards, Sr., was a farmer by occupation. He lived and died in Wales. Josiah Edwards, Jr., and wife, and one child, came to America in 1855, in the spring, settling first in Utica, New York, where he was employed on a dairy farm. The following fall, in 1855, he came to Allen county, Ohio, and settled at Gomer. His first employment was with Griffith John, a contractor, who built the Pennsylvania railroad from Lima to Elida. The following summer he rented a farm on "Calico ridge," Sugar Creek township, Allen county, and here he lived for about seven years, when he moved, in 1862, to Sugar Creek town-

ship, Putnam county, and settled on eighty acres of land one and one-half miles southwest of Vaughnsville. This farm was located on the Old Ridge road. It was in a virgin state at the time he purchased it, and had only an acre or two cleared. Josiah Edwards proceeded to clear and drain the land and improve it. He succeeded in getting it all cleared, except eight acres. He built a large frame house of ten rooms, in 1873, and a large frame barn in 1879. To this land, he later added forty acres more. He was always engaged in general farming, was a very successful farmer and attributed his success mostly to the raising of corn and hogs. He was also successful in raising horses.

Josiah and Susan (Breese) Edwards had one child before they came to America. This child, John, who was but four years old when his parents came to Allen county, died the day after their arrival at Gomer. There were five children born to Josiah Edwards and wife, John was born in Wales on January 21, 1851, and died at Gomer on November 8, 1855; Margaret is the deceased wife of B. F. Thomas; Joseph B. is a farmer in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county; Mary is the wife of Thomas S. Williams; John W. is the subject of this sketch. Josiah Edwards died on August 17, 1897, at the ripe old age of seventy-one. He and his wife were members of the Gomer Congregational church, of which he was a deacon for many years. Josiah Edwards was a Republican. He enlisted, in 1864, in the One Hundred and Fifty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, for one hundred days, and was attached to the Army of the Potomac. He was on duty, near Washington, D. C., at the close of the war. Josiah Edwards, Jr., was mustered into the service for one hundred days on May 13, 1864, and was mustered out on August 27, 1864.

Mrs. Susan (Breese) Edwards, the wife of Josiah Edwards, Jr., was a daughter of John and Mary (Edwards) Breese, and was born in North Wales, in Montgomeryshire, May 13, 1827. She had one brother and five sisters, all of whom came to America, and all of whom, except one sister, Mrs. Sarah Morris, settled in Iowa. She settled in Vaughnsville and there died. Mrs. Susan (Breese) Edwards lived on the old home place until her death, November 5, 1909.

John W. Edwards spent his childhood and youth on the old homestead of his father, southwest of Vaughnsville. He attended the old Bryne Tawa school, and after finishing school, continued helping his father on the old home place.

At the age of twenty-two, Mr. Edwards was married to Zoe Gardner,

who was born in Vaughnsville on January 14, 1872, and who was a daughter of Henry and Angelina (Calhoun) Gardner, the former of whom was the sixth of seven children born to Samuel and Catherine Gardner, natives of Pennsylvania, and of German descent. Samuel Gardner was born in 1802, and died in Bluffton, Allen County, Ohio, in 1863. His wife, Catherine Gardner, was born on June 19, 1809, and died at Columbus Grove, April 16, 1887. Samuel Gardner was a blacksmith by trade, and a captain of militia during pioneer days. He was a Presbyterian and his wife a member of the Lutheran church. Henry Gardner was born in Richland county, Ohio, June 18, 1840, and from the age of eighteen years until 1890 was a blacksmith. He then became a merchant. Samuel Gardner moved with his family to Mercer county, Ohio, in 1850, and purchased an improved farm. He remained there eight years and then removed to Wayne county, and finally settled at Bluffton. Henry Gardner enlisted in the Fourth Ohio Cavalry in 1861 and served three years in the Army of the Cumberland. He was honorably discharged at Cincinnati, Ohio. He was married in 1866 and engaged in hotel keeping, at Columbus Grove, Ohio, about a year, when he settled at Vaughnsville. He served as township trustee and as treasurer of the school district, and was a census taker in 1880. His wife, Angelina Calhoun, was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, October 24, 1845, and was a daughter of Matthew and Elizabeth Calhoun. Henry and Angelina (Calhoun) Gardner had five daughters, Minnie, Carrie, Zoe, who married Mr. Edwards; Maud and Blanche. Mr. and Mrs. Edwards were married on February 23, 1893. After their marriage, Mr. Edwards rented his father's farm, the old homestead. This arrangement existed until after his mother's death, in 1909, at which time he purchased the farm from the heirs. The same year, February 1, 1909, the Peoples Bank opened for business in Vaughnsville, and Mr. Edwards was elected as cashier of that institution, which position he has held up to the present time. Mr. Edwards, however, continues to supervise the operations of his farm. He has always done general farming. He moved from the farm and took up his residence in Vaughnsville in November, 1912, where he now resides. His residence, which he purchased in 1912, is a modern eight-room house, beautifully situated, and bespeaks the character and culture of its owner.

Henry Gardner, father of Mrs. Edwards, died on August 29, 1911. All of his children, except Carrie, are still living. Mr. Edwards' sister, Margaret, who was born in America, April 24, 1856, and who died on January 20, 1881, had married B. F. Thomas and bore him one child, Josiah Thomas, who was reared by his grandfather. Mr. Edwards' brother,

Joseph B., was born on November 27, 1859. His life history is recounted elsewhere in this volume. Mary J. Edwards, who was born on August 23, 1865, is the wife of T. S. Williams, a farmer.

John W. Edwards and his wife are members of the Congregational church. Mr. Edwards is a member of Vaughnsville Lodge No. 711, Knights of Pythias. He also occupies a responsible position in the life of Sugar Creek township, not only as one of its leading farmers, but as an officer in charge of its leading financial institution. This business brings him into intimate association with his fellow citizens. He enjoys their confidence, to an exceptional degree, and is much sought for advice and counsel.

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### MATHIAS THEODORE VERHOFF.

There is no calling, however humble, in which enterprise and industry, coupled with well-directed purpose, will not produce some measure of success. In the pursuit of agriculture, the qualities mentioned are quite essential. Among the well-known and highly respected farmers of Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, who have attained a definite degree of success in their special vocations and who, at the same time, have greatly benefited the community in which they live, is Mathias Theodore Verhoff, the gentleman to a review of whose career, the attention of the reader is now directed.

Mathias Theodore Verhoff was born on August 14, 1887, near Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, on his father's farm. He is the son of William and Catherine (Kerner) Verhoff. William Verhoff is the son of Francis and Mary (Kramer) Verhoff. Francis Verhoff was born in Westphalia, Prussia and came to America in 1836, alone, settling near Glandorf; Putnam county, Ohio, on a farm. He was a blacksmith by trade, and proprietor of the first blacksmith shop in this county. He was well known for his high workmanship. Francis Verhoff was married to Mary Kramer in 1837. They had ten children, Theodore, Gertrude, Christina, Catherine, Mary Ann, Frank, Henry, William, deceased; Charles and William. The father of these children, before his death, acquired a full section of land in Putnam county. Mary Kramer, who was the wife of Francis Verhoff, was the daughter of Theodore and Gertrude (Veraking) Kramer, who were married in Germany and resided there many years, having come to this country when the elder Kramer was about fifty years of age. They settled in Putnam county, Ohio, and were the parents of six children, William, Henry,

Catherine, Christina and Mary, all of whom are now deceased; and, Frederick, who is still living. Katherine Kerner was the daughter of Mathias and Elizabeth Kerner, the former of whom was born in Germany and the latter a native of Pennsylvania. Mathias Kerner came to this country and settled in Putnam county. Prior to coming to Putnam county, he spent three years in South Carolina. His wife came to Putnam county from Pennsylvania after the death of her parents.

Mathias T. Verhoff attended school at Glandorf until he was fourteen years of age. Until he was nineteen years of age, he worked on his father's farm and then removed with his brother, J. Frank, to a farm in Union township, which belonged to his father, where they worked for some years.

Mathias T. Verhoff was married on June 5, 1907, to Philomena Uphaus, the daughter of Gerhard and Margaret (Wehrie) Uphaus. Gerhard Uphaus and wife were born in Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. He was the son of John and Catherine Uphaus, who came from Germany to this country after they were married. He was a farmer and settled near Glandorf on a farm, where he continued to live until the death of his wife, and where he afterward died. He and his wife were members of St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf. Margaret Wehrie was the daughter of Clement and Anna Wehrie, who were born in Germany and who, at an early date, came to America, settling on a farm at Glandorf. They were well known among the early settlers and lived on their farm until their death. They were also members of St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf.

After the marriage of Gerhard and Margaret (Wehrie) Uphaus, they located on a farm in Jackson township, Putnam county. He died on November 5, 1912. Their children were John, Anna, Josephine, William, Philomena and Mathilda.

Mathias T. and Philomena (Uphaus) Verhoff came to their present farm after their marriage, which farm consisted of seventy-seven acres and which Mr. Verhoff bought from his father. He is engaged in general farming and raises a high grade of stock. He and his wife have been the parents of four children, Ambrose William, born on August 18, 1908; Gerhard Mathias, born on October 22, 1910; Victor Francis, born on February 22, 1913, and Mathias John, born on April 2, 1915.

Mathias T. Verhoff and wife are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida. Mr. Verhoff is a member of the Catholic knights of Ohio. He is an industrious young farmer, business-like in his manner, thrifty and ambitious, as well as a hard worker. He is eminently respected in the community where he lives and popular among all of his neighbors.

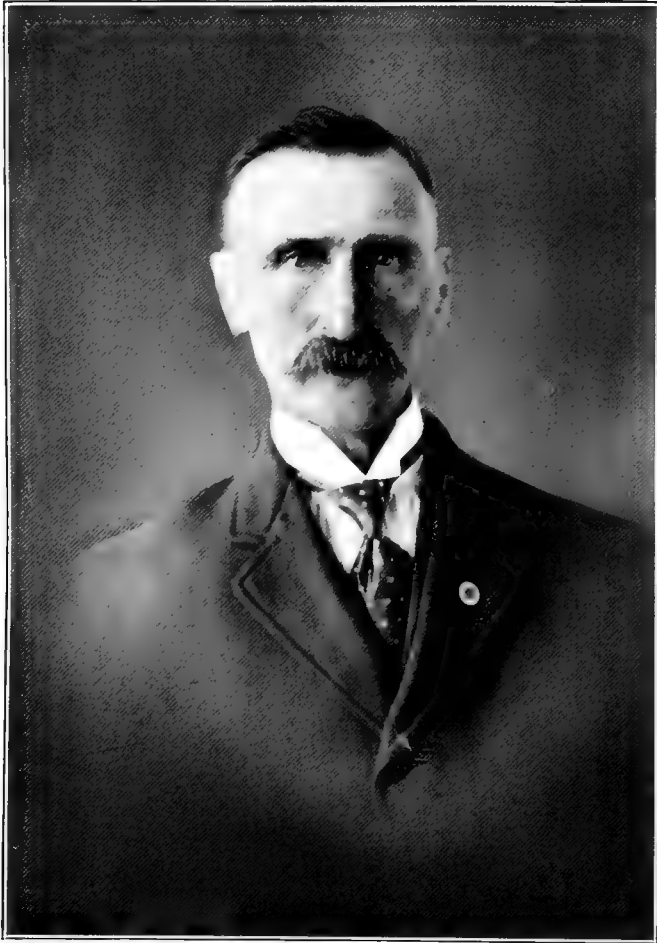
## JOHN MERSCHMAN.

The best title one can establish to the high and generous esteem of an intelligent community is a protracted and honorable residence therein. John Merschman, one of the best-known and highly-esteemed farmers of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, has resided in this locality all his life. His career has been most commendable in every respect, well deserving of being perpetuated on the pages of a historical work of the nature of this one. Like his sterling father before him, he has been a man of well-defined purpose, and has never failed to carry to successful completion any work or enterprise to which he addressed himself. Mr. Merschman has always applied himself very closely to his work and his industry has brought its reward.

John Merschman was born in 1855 in the north edge of Pleasant township, south of Ottawa. He is a son of Barney and Katherine (Hagenjuger) Merschman. Barney was born in Osnabruck, Germany, grew up there and married Catherine Hagenjuger. He was a shepherd in the old country, and out of this made the money with which to pay his passage to America. He was about thirty years of age when he arrived in the United States, locating in Putnam county, Ohio, on what is known as the Buscher farm, between Ottawa and Glandorf. To get a start, Mr. Merschman worked as a farm laborer by the day and later purchased eighty acres of land in the north edge of Pleasant township. Here he lived the remainder of his life, following the vocation of a farmer. He was also a veterinary surgeon, learning the latter profession in his native land, and after the people in his neighborhood learned of his skill in this direction they gave him plenty to do. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, two of whom died in early childhood. The eight living children are: Henry, of Miller City; John, of this review; Elizabeth, the wife of Henry Schulte, of Ottoville; Mary, the wife of William Unterbrink, who lives in Michigan; Katie, the wife of Ignatius Kreinbrink; Annie, the wife of Frank Goede, of Leipsic; Barney, a farmer of Pleasant township, and Theresia, the wife of Barney Moening, residents of Michigan. The father of these children died on April 7, 1909, and the mother died in May, 1898.

John Merschman lived on the home farm until he was married, his marriage taking place on November 4, 1875, when he was united to Clara Gattman. She was born in Greensburg township, in this county, the daughter of Joseph and Gertrude (Unterbrink) Herlager-Gattman. Joseph Gatt-





JOHN MERSCHMAN.



man was born in Osnabruck, Germany, coming to this country and settling in Putnam county in an early day, where he was successfully engaged in farming. He owned his own farm and also operated a threshing machine outfit for many years, and was well known throughout the county. Joseph Gattman made two trips back to Germany to visit the scenes of his childhood days. Gertrude Unterbrink was also a native of Germany, coming to this country with her parents, who were early settlers in Greensburg township. They arrived about 1834, when the land was covered with timber, and wild animals and Indians roamed the woods. Here Gertrude Unterbrink grew to womanhood and married Mr. Herlager, of Greensburg township, and after his death she married Joseph Gattman. She was the mother of six children, of whom only two are living, Mrs. Merschman and Bernardina, the widow of George Bensman.

After the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. John Merschman they moved to where they now live in Greensburg township. He has cleared about twenty acres more of his farm since he came, remodeled and built an addition to his house, built good barns and has a handsome country home, substantial buildings, the whole presenting a very neat and attractive appearance. He is the owner of one hundred and nineteen acres of land, on which he carries on general farming and stock raising.

John Merschman and wife are the parents of eleven children, Frank, Mary, Amelia, Veronica, Louie, Emma, Helena, John, Petronilla, and two who died in infancy. Frank married Katherine Klima and lives at Cloverdale. He and his wife have seven children, Harry, Clara, Leo, Lawrence, William, Veronica and Anna Mary. The latter is the wife of Matt Kerner, and lives one-half mile south of Mr. Merschman. They have five children, Eleanor, Harry, Loretta, Emma and Victor. Amelia is the wife of Charles Ellerbrock and lives on her father's farm. They have one daughter, Mary. Veronica is the wife of Andrew Nieman and lives two miles west of her father's place. They have one daughter, Henrietta. Louise is the wife of John Kehres and lives near her father's farm, and has three children, Alphonse, Donelda and Alberta. Emma is the wife of Henry Gerderman and they are the parents of one son, Amos. They live on a farm three miles south of her father's place. Helena is the wife of Henry Martin, a resident of Fort Jennings, and they have one daughter, Mildred. John is unmarried and lives at home. Petronilla is also living at home.

John Merschman is not only a successful farmer, but he is a successful veterinarian, having learned the profession from his father. He has a large

practice in the county and his skill is widely known throughout his community.

The Merschman family are members of the Catholic church at Glandorf. John Merschman is one of the leading citizens of his township and a man whom it is a pleasure to know, enterprising, broad-minded and optimistic, a believer in all good things and a worker in all good enterprises.

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#### FRANK G. BENSMAN.

Frank G. Bensman, a short sketch of whose career appears below, was born on the farm where he now lives, in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, on October 4, 1878. He is a son of Gerhard and Bernadina (Gardman) Bensman, the former of whom was a native of Osnabruck in Germany, who came to this country alone when quite a young man, locating at Glandorf, this county. He was a son of Anthony and Maria Elizabeth Bensman, both natives of Germany. The father died in his native land after the son Gerhard had come to this country, and about the year 1871 the mother joined the son here. One son, Henry, died in Germany before the family came here, while Maria remained in Germany, and Maria, William, Anthony, George, Augustus and Louise joined Gerhard in this country. This entire family has now passed away.

For about two years after reaching Putnam county, Gerhard, father of Frank G. Bensman, worked out on farms by the day. After a time he began farming for himself and, in the course of time, purchased the farm where Frank now resides, which contains eighty acres. Gerhard purchased forty acres of this from a brother and the other forty from Henry Niese. Gerhard Bensman passed away in 1903, and is remembered as a man of industrious habits, devoted to family and friends.

Frank G. Bensman's mother was Bernadina Gardman, daughter of Joseph and Gertrude (Unterbrink) Gardman, both natives of the German Empire, but who were, however, married in this country. They settled on a farm in this county, where John Merschman now lives, and to them were born two children, Bernadina and Clara. The mother had been previously married to Henry Herlage, and by her first husband became the mother of the following children: Katrina, Anna, Helena and Mary. The farm above referred to was the family home for a number of years, where both parents died.

Frank G. Bensman is one of a family of four children, the others being Elizabeth, Amelia and Anthony. Elizabeth became the wife of Ferdinand Rechten and resides at Miller City. She is the mother of four children, and with her also lives her mother. Amelia is the wife of Bernard Rechten and lives on a farm near Miller City. Anthony has remained unmarried.

Frank Bensman attended the district schools near his home when a boy and remained under the parental roof until the time for his marriage, when he was united in wedlock to Amelia, daughter of William and Mary Unterbrink. Amelia Unterbrink was born on March 31, 1883. William Unterbrink was a son of William and Elizabeth (Hohenbrink) Unterbrink, who came to this country from Germany after their marriage. They first settled in Putnam county, on a farm in Greensburg township, and later moved to a farm south of Ottawa, where they passed the remainder of their days. They had the following children: William, Carolina, Henry, Theresa, Frank and Joseph. William was educated in the schools of the county and for seven years worked out among the farmers of the neighborhood. After his marriage with Mary Merschman, he located on a farm south of Ottawa and, subsequently, lived at Findlay, Liberty Center, Leipsic and Miller City, this state. They are at present residing at Durand, Michigan, where they went some time ago.

Mary Merschman, Mrs. Bensman's mother, is a daughter of John B. and Christina (Hageman) Merschman, both of whom came from Osnabruck, Germany, and settled on the farm now occupied by Barney Merschman, and on that farm both passed their remaining days. Their family consisted of eight children, namely: Henry, John, Elizabeth, Mary, Kate, Anna, Theresa and Barney.

After his marriage, Frank G. Bensman and his bride moved to the farm formerly owned by his father. This contains eighty acres, and Mr. Bensman gives his attention mainly to general farming as practiced throughout this section. He also devotes some time to stock raising and has also a fine lot of poultry. In recent years he has remodeled the residence, and also repaired outbuildings and added new equipment, so that the farm home is attractive and comfortable. Anthony, the single brother, makes his home with the subject and farms the eighty acres adjoining, which he owns. He is thirty-nine years of age.

The entire family are members of St. John's church at Glandorf, and in politics Mr. Bensman is a Democrat, who has given some time to politics.

He has served as road supervisor and is accounted one of the active men of the party in his neighborhood. Active both mentally and physically, and of high ambition to succeed along all legitimate lines, Mr. Bensman is of that class of men who stand for all that is highest and best in any community. There are three children of the family, Raymond, born on June 8, 1906; Mary, born on June 24, 1908, and Agnes, born on June 27, 1911.

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#### MARTIN LUTHER PRITCHARD.

To manage a business with ability and profit, today, requires more than the mere display of the stock and the buying and selling. It is necessary that the merchant shall have combined in his make-up, something of the psychologist, that he be more or less of a strategist, and that he must be prepared to do a great deal of hard work. These qualities are found combined to a marked degree in Martin Luther Pritchard, who has established a thriving mercantile business in West Leipsic, Ohio.

Coming into this world on March 5, 1860, in Liberty township, Putnam county, Mr. Pritchard is the son of Alexander Gibson and Elizabeth (Lee) Pritchard, who were the parents of four children, as follow: Arthur, who died at the age of three years; Jefferson A., who lives in Leipsic; Martin Luther, and Jane, who died at the age of four.

Alexander Pritchard was born in Perry county, Ohio, in 1825, and was a physician who practiced successfully in Putnam county, Ohio, having come to Putnam county in the 'fifties, where he practiced until his death in 1866. He was a prominent physician and a worthy citizen, being a justice of the peace and postmaster in old Leipsic. In politics, he was a Republican and in religion a steadfast Baptist. His wife, a native of Virginia, died in 1900.

With small opportunity to gain an education, Mr. Pritchard began work in a factory at an early age. By dint of hard work he managed to establish himself in the mercantile business and to educate his children, and great credit is due Mr. Pritchard, as he was thrown on his own resources early in youth, his family being in moderate circumstances. The general store which Mr. Pritchard now operates was established in September, 1883.

On December 18, 1880, Mr. Pritchard married Luella White, the daughter of Robert and Nancy (Neely) White, whose biographies are briefly given elsewhere in this volume, in the sketch devoted to J. H. White.

To the union of Mr. Pritchard and his wife, the following children have been born: Clyde A., who married Maude Henry and is now ticket agent for the Nickel Plate Railway Company at Fort Wayne, Indiana, and has three children, Neal, Owen, Paul; Clarence Martin married Anna Dwar and is ticket agent on the Nickel Plate railway at McComb, Ohio; he and his wife were the parents of two children who died in infancy; Eva L. married William C. Snyder, of Bellevue, Ohio, and has two children, Martin and Donald; Harry Eugene married Emma Ladd and they have two children, Lucille Evaline and Francis; Harry is a motorman on the Ohio Electric railway and lives in Lima, Ohio; Louis Gilbert married Laura Robinson and is employed by the Temco Electric Company of Leipsic; they have one child, Robert Louis; Ethel died when she was three years of age.

Martin Luther Pritchard is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, Lodge No. 548, of Leipsic, also the chapter at Ottawa and Findlay Commandery. In politics he is a Republican and was on the school board for years, was township treasurer for two terms, and was postmaster of West Leipsic for about sixteen years, beginning his service under President McKinley and ending in April, 1914. He has also been corporation treasurer for many years. Subject's four boys are Masons and his wife belongs to the Eastern Star at Leipsic.

Speaking ill of no one and with a good word for all, Mr. Pritchard is a quiet, unassuming man who has gained success by close application and untiring effort, although it is foreign to his nature to indulge in vain boasting in regard to his accomplishments. Quick to grasp the opportunities presented to him, Mr. Pritchard is a man of strict integrity who is honored by all who know him.

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#### MATHIAS GERDEMAN.

Among the farmers of Putnam county who have to their credit several years spent industriously and intelligently tilling the soil, is Mathias Gerdeman, of Union township. He comes from a good family, one that has always been strong for right living and industrious habits and all that contributes to the welfare of the commonwealth. Moreover, the Gerdeman family is one of the oldest in Putnam county. Such people are welcome in any community, for they are nation-builders, and as such push the frontier of civilization ever westward and onward, leaving the green, wide-reaching

wilderness and the far-stretching plains populous with contented people and beautiful with green fields.

Mathias Gerdeman was born on March 12, 1887. He is the son of Henry and Bernadina (Eickholt) Gerdeman, both natives of Putnam county, the former of whom was born on February 19, 1842, and who was the son of Caspar and Anna Gerdeman, natives of Germany. Bernadina Eickholt was born on May 15, 1846, and was the daughter of Barney and Elizabeth (Nieman) Eickholt. Henry Gerdeman was married to Bernadina Eickholt on May 5, 1868. Throughout his life he was a farmer, but during his latter years he has lived retired with his son, Henry, Jr. His wife died on March 27, 1915. They had twelve children, as follow: Charles, Andrew, Katherine, Barney, John, William, Elizabeth, Amelia, Josephine, Bernadina, Henry and Mathias.

Mathias Gerdeman attended the Barney Fortman school in Union township and worked on his father's farm until his marriage. Mr. Gerdeman was married on May 1, 1912, to Elizabeth Schumacher, the daughter of Joseph J. and Mary Elizabeth (Rechtine) Schumacher, of Pleasant township. He still lives on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in that township. In fact, he has lived there for many years.

Joseph J. Schumacher, father of subject's wife, was married twice. His first wife was Mary Wellman, and by this marriage there were twelve children, four of whom are deceased, as follows: Anna, Mary, Katherine, Amelia, Andrew, Frank, Benjamin, John; Elizabeth, Amelia, Anthony and John, deceased. Mr. Schumacher's second wife was Mary Elizabeth Rechtine (mother of subject's wife), and by this marriage there were three children, as follow: Elizabeth, subject's wife, Eleanor and Anthony, deceased. Mr. Schumacher's second marriage took place several years after the death of his first wife.

Of these children, Anna married Theodore Hasselman and lives in Leipsic, Ohio; Mary married John Bellman, who is now deceased; Katherine married Henry Bellman, and they live at Leipsic; Amelia married George Wuebken, who is deceased; Andrew married Amelia Maag and lives in Jackson township; Frank married Mary Meyer and lives in Toledo; Benjamin married Mary Niese and lives in Leipsic; John married Anna Maas and lives in Pleasant township on the farm with his father. The mother of these children died on August 20, 1907.

After his marriage, Mathias Gerdeman moved to a farm of eighty-three acres in Union township. He bought this farm on March 1, 1912.



He has erected an addition to the house and made many other improvements. To Mr. and Mrs. Mathias Gerdeman one child, Mary Louise, has been born. She was born March 26, 1914.

Mathias Gerdeman has a splendid house and an attractive and well-kept farm. He is an able young farmer, popular with his neighbors on account of his genial good humor. Moreover, he is well informed on all of the topics of the day and possessed of exceptional intelligence. He makes a specialty of raising thoroughbred Duroc Jersey hogs.

Mathias Gerdeman and his family belong to the St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida. Fraternally, he is a member of St. Joseph's Benevolent Society.

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#### ANDREW J. RIEMAN.

To a great extent, the prosperity of the agricultural sections of our country is due to the honest industry, the sturdy persistence, the unswerving perseverance and the wise economy which so prominently characterize the farming element of the Buckeye state. Among this class may be mentioned the subject of this life record, who though still a young man, has apparently mapped out a course in life for himself which not only will bring him well-merited prosperity, but which also will win for him the high esteem and unlimited respect of all with whom he may be associated in any way.

Andrew J. Rieman, member of the one of the oldest and most highly respected families of the county, was born on his father's farm in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, on November 14, 1872, being a son of Frank, Sr., and Mary (Karhoff) Rieman. Subject's father was a son of John and Mary (Mehring) Rieman, both natives of Oldenburg in Germany. They emigrated to this country early in their married life, lived for a time in Cincinnati, Ohio, and later came to Putnam county, where they settled on a farm and passed their remaining years. Andrew Rieman's father was born in Ottawa township, this county. For further particulars of the Rieman family, consult the sketch of Frank Rieman, Sr., found elsewhere within the pages of this history.

Andrew J. Rieman attended the district schools near his home, when a boy, and remained on the family homestead until he started out in life for himself. When thirty years of age, in 1902, he was joined in wedlock to Sophronia, daughter of John and Clara (Gattman) Merschman. There were eleven children in the Merschman family, as follow: Frank, Mary,

Amelia, William, deceased; Sophronia, subject's wife; Lucy, Emma, Lena, John, Petronella and Harry, deceased.

For two years after their marriage Andrew Rieman and his wife remained in the home of his parents and then took up their residence on the present family homestead, where they have since lived. This farm contains eighty acres and formerly belonged to his father. Since obtaining possession of it, he has erected a splendid barn and other buildings, and is making it, in every way, an up-to-date farm home. He carries on general farming, and is uniformly successful with his crops.

Andrew Rieman and family are members of St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf, and in politics he is a Democrat, being quite active within the ranks of that party. He is an honorable and ambitious young man, who is bound to make a useful place for himself in the world. Mrs. Rieman is a pleasant and agreeable young woman, and, both coming from the oldest and best families of the county, they have from earliest childhood had held before them the highest standard of conduct, which they in their turn are passing on to the little one in their home. There is just one child, Henrietta, born on August 30, 1908. For history of Andrew J. Rieman's wife, see sketch of John Merschman, her father, of Greensburg township, on another page of this history.

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#### LANCE M. WYNKOOP.

Among the young farmers of Putnam county who are bringing to the management of their farms the latest scientific methods in agriculture, and who are definitely pointing the way to a better system of farming than ever prevailed in the past, there are few who are better known in the section in which they live than is the gentleman whose name is noted above, an intelligent young farmer, who not only is making a success of his undertakings in that line, but who for years has been a very successful and popular school teacher in the neighborhood of his home in Greensburg township. An earnest exemplar of the latest methods of farming and a conscientious instructor of the youth in his vicinity, Lance M. Wynkoop is doing a good work in the world, and no history of Putnam county would be complete without adequate mention of the important details of his life and genealogy. The biographer, therefore, takes pleasure in calling the attention of the reader at this point to the subject of this interesting sketch.



MR. AND MRS. LANCE M. WYNKOOP.



Lance M. Wynkoop was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, October 27, 1882, the son of Milton and Sarah (Crow) Wynkoop, the former of whom was born in the town of Gilboa, this county, and the latter of whom was born on the farm on which her son, Lance M., now lives, in Greensburg township. Milton Wynkoop was the son of Isaac Wynkoop, one of the pioneers of this county, who in his day and generation was one of the best known and most influential residents of the section in which he so long lived and labored. He not only cleared a considerable tract of land, making clear the ways for his descendants to find a comfortable home in what was a wilderness when he came to this county, but he found time in connection with his extensive personal affairs to give much attention to the affairs of public concern, and was ever found actively participating in all movements which had as their object the betterment of local conditions.

Milton Wynkoop was reared at Gilboa, this county, and evinced in his early youth an unusual aptitude for study, proving so efficient in his studies that as a young man he began teaching school in the neighborhood. He followed this important calling for several years, even after his marriage, and then opened a general store at Miller City, this county, this venture proving so profitable that he started a similar store at Kiefersville. Later he opened a store for the sale of agricultural implements at Continental, and continued in business in that place for sixteen years, or until his death, being one of the most successful and popular merchants of that town. His death occurred in May, 1905, while his widow is still living, in Continental. Milton Wynkoop was an ardent Republican and took a prominent part in the political affairs of the county. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias, and was one of the most active workers in the local lodge of that order.

Milton Wynkoop was united in marriage to Sarah Crow, daughter of Miles and Lena (Schmidt) Crow, pioneers of Putnam county, the former of whom was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, August 21, 1825, the ninth child of Abraham Crow, a native of Pennsylvania, who moved to Columbiana county with his parents at an early day in the settlement of that part of the state. The Crow family were brilliant lights in the old Covenanter church, in Pennsylvania, in the earlier days, and many of the same family are still prominent people in Washington and Butler counties in that state. In his early life Miles Crow was the proprietor of an ashery, but during the rest of his life was engaged in farming. He was for many years one of the most active workers in the Christian church in the neighborhood in which he lived, and his example was ever a good one in the community. He married

prison. Casper and Anna Gerdeman were prominent and influential members of the community in which they lived. They are buried in Grandview cemetery.

Barney Eickholt and wife, Elizabeth, who was a Niemann, emigrated from Germany to Putnam in an early day and settled near Glandorf. They were the parents of six children, Joseph, Martha, Henry, William, Charles and Bernadina, the last of whom was the mother of Henry Gerdeman. Henry Gerdeman, Sr., was married to Bernadina Eickholt, May 5, 1868. He was a farmer throughout his life, but during his latter years has retired from the active work of the farm. His wife died on March 27, 1915. They were the parents of the following children: Charles, who married Anna Bush; Andrew, who married Ida Dalinz, and is now deceased; Catherine, the wife of Henry Hamburg; Barney, who married Anna Brinkman; John, who married Mary Lang; William, who married Mary Schroeder; Elizabeth, the wife of Henry Verhoff; Amelia, the wife of William Marmon; Bernardina, the wife of Joseph Marmon; Henry, the immediate subject of this review; Mathias, who married Emily Schumacher.

Henry Gerdeman, Jr., was educated in the schools of Union township. He lived on his father's farm until his marriage on May 5, 1910, at which time he was married to Emma Marshman, the daughter of John and Clara (Gattman) Merschman, the former of whom was born in 1855, in the north edge of Pleasant township, south of Ottawa, and was a son of Barney and Catherine (Hagenjager) Merschman. Barney Merschman was born in Osnabruck, Germany, and was there married to Catherine Hagenjager. He was a shepherd in the old country. John Merschman's wife, the mother of Mrs. Gerdeman, was born in Greensburg township, and was a daughter of Joseph and Gertrude (Unterbrink) Gattman. Joseph Gattman was born in Osnabruck, Germany, coming to the United States in an early day, and was a well-known farmer in this county. Gertrude Unterbrink, also a native of Germany, came to this country with her parents, who were early settlers in Greensburg township. They arrived in the United States about 1834. Gertrude Unterbrink first married a Mr. Herlager, of Greensburg township, and, after his death, became the wife of Joseph Gattman. She was the mother of six children, of whom only two are living, Mrs. John Merschman and Bernadina, the widow of George Bensman. John Merschman and wife had eleven children, Frank, Mary, Amelia, Veronica, Louise, Emma, Helena, John, Petronella, and two who died in infancy.

After his marriage, Henry Gerdeman, Jr., moved to a farm which he

had purchased and where he lived for two years. This farm consisted of seventy-four acres. Mr. Gerdeman later moved to a farm owned by his father in Union township which consisted of one hundred and ten acres. Mr. Gerdeman and his family and parents lived together until the death of the mother on March 27, 1915. Mr. Gerdeman's father is still living with him on the farm.

Henry Gerdeman and all the members of his family are devout Catholics, belonging to St. Michael's church at Kalida. The family are well known in this section of Putnam county, and are highly respected for their industry, thrift, economy and neighborly good will.

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### JACOB S. MYERS.

The sketch which follows, dealing with the man whose name appears above, his brother Samuel and their sister Maria, is the story of plain and honest manhood and womanhood, of sturdy industry and well-directed effort along chosen lines.

Jacob S. Myers was born on December 21, 1852, on a farm in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, where he now makes his home. Samuel Myers first saw the light of day in 1855, and Maria three years later. They are children of Jacob and Lydia (Shank) Myers, the former being a well-grown youth when he came with his parents from their home in the state of Maryland. The journey was made overland in a wagon, considerable time being consumed en route. The parents were John and Mary (Dillon) Myers, whose children were, Abraham, John, Samuel, Jacob, Peter, Joseph, Christian and Henry. The parents were in their declining years when the children induced them to come and make a new home in a new country that was rapidly being settled in this part of Ohio. Jacob Myers, another son, the father of Jacob S., later came with his uncle, Peter Myers, and his cousin, Martin Myers. Others came together and joined the rest of the family. Later, two more sons, Peter and Henry, came, when Peter settled in Perry township in Putnam county, and Henry settled in Paulding county, Ohio. After the family reached Putnam county, they settled on a tract of eighty acres, which they had secured from the government, and set about the task of clearing their land of the timber and preparing it for cultivation. They, in time, developed an excellent farm and were among the most highly respected citizens of the community at the time of their death. Jacob, father of our

subject, assisted in clearing the home farm and developing the land and, later, on his own account, he entered a tract from the government, containing sixty-four acres, and this same land forms a portion of the holdings of Jacob S. Myers at the present time. After he had his grant of eighty acres in fair condition, Jacob Myers purchased from his father an additional tract of sixty-four acres and also cleared that of timber. On this farm he made his home, after the time of his marriage, about the year 1846. He chose as his wife Lydia Shank, a daughter of Michael and Barbara (Wideman) Shank, both of whom were natives of Canada and came to this country after their marriage. They came by boat on the Great Lakes, as far as Toledo, Ohio, and thence overland to their destination in Putnam county. They entered one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government and in the course of time developed a fine farm. The mother passed away while the family was still living on this farm and the father later lived in Elkhart, Indiana, where his life closed. The thirteen children of the family were: Eve, Susan, Tina, Fannie, Catherine, Mary, Barbara, Esther, Maria, Sarah, Michael, Elizabeth and Lydia.

As above stated, Michael and Barbara (Wideman) Shank, the parents of Jacob S. Myers, came to the farm where they are now living, which was the family home for many years. Both parents have passed into the Great Beyond, leaving behind them, to their children, a rich heritage in the knowledge of lives passed in industry and humility. The father died in 1875, and the mother in 1886.

Jacob S. Myers received his education in the district schools near his home and, in early manhood, assisted his father in the work about the homestead. The parents were members of the Mennonite church, and in this faith the children were reared and are today members of that body. Jacob has served as township assessor for a term of two years and also as township supervisor, discharging all the duties thus devolving upon him in a manner highly satisfactory to all. Jacob, Samuel and Maria are unmarried and operate the farm which they own. Their holdings total two hundred and sixty-eight acres, and the farm is considered one of the finest in the township. All the buildings are in a good state of repair. They have an excellent equipment and being industrious, get good returns for the labor expended. By industrious habits and frugal manner of living, they have amassed a goodly portion of this world's goods, but better still is the high esteem in which they are held by all who know them on account of their honorable and well-directed lives.



## FLORIAN STOEPFEL.

Among the successful, self-made men of the present generation in Putnam county, Ohio, whose efforts and influence have contributed to the material upbuilding of the community, Florian Stoepfel occupies a conspicuous place. Being ambitious from the first, but surrounded with none too favorable environment, his early youth was not especially promising. Resolutely facing the future, however, he has gradually surmounted the difficulties in his way and, in due course of time, has arisen to a prominent position in the agricultural circles of his community. In addition to this, he has won the confidence and esteem of those with whom he has come in contact. For years, he has stood as one of the representative citizens of the locality, honored by his citizenship.

Florian Stoepfel was born on February 28, 1877, in Bavaria, Germany. He is the son of Gregoire and Crescentia (Essenwanger) Stoepfel, both natives of the same place, who died in Germany. Gregoire Stoepfel was a farmer all of his life. One year after his death, his widow, with her son and daughter, came to this country, and joined Florian Stoepfel, who had crossed the sea some time previous. The mother settled on a farm in Greensburg township, where she still lives. Her children are: Florian, the subject of this sketch; Lucas, Louis, Mary and John, deceased. Lucas married Mollie Siebeneck and lives in Putnam county; Louis is unmarried and lives in Cloverdale; Mary married Frank J. Verhoff and lives in Ashtabula county, Ohio.

Florian Stoepfel attended school in the old country and, when fifteen years of age, came to America and settled near Glandorf in Putnam county. He worked on various farms, during the first few years after his arrival in this country, and finally purchased forty acres in Union township, before his marriage.

Florian Stoepfel was married on October 28, 1903, to Josephine Uphaus, the daughter of George and Margaret (Wehrie) Uphaus. George Uphaus was the son of John and Catherine Uphaus, who came from Germany after their marriage. He was a farmer and settled near Glandorf on a farm where he continued to live until his death. He and his wife were members of St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf. Margaret Wehrie was the daughter of Clement and Anna Wehrie, who were born in Germany and who, at an early day, came to this country, settling on a farm near Glandorf, Putnam county. They were well known among the early settlers and lived on this farm until their death. They were also members of St. John's Catholic

church at Glandorf. Mrs. Stoepfel is the sister of Philomena Uphaus, the wife of Mathias Theodore Verhoff, whose sketch is found elsewhere in this volume.

After the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Stoepfel, they moved to the farm where they now live in Union township. Since Mr. Stoepfel's marriage, he has acquired twenty acres in addition to his original purchase of forty acres, before his marriage. He is a general farmer, but makes a specialty of raising cattle. He does considerable well drilling, under contract for the farmers of the community in which he lives, and has been very successful in this work.

To. Florian and Josephine (Uphaus) Stoepfel, five children have been born, Clara, born on February 7, 1905; Matilda, born on December 19, 1906; Laura, born on September 22, 1908; John, born on October 30, 1910, and Joseph, born on July 28, 1913.

Florian Stoepfel and wife belong to St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida. They are devout members of this church and contribute liberally of their means to its support. Mr. Stoepfel is an energetic and ambitious young farmer, who has adopted progressive methods in everything that pertains to the work of the farm. He is in every respect a representative citizen of Union township, where he lives.

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### ALONZO RAGER.

Putnam county has been fortunate in the character of its farmers and much of its material prosperity can be attributed to the fact that its farmers have kept abreast of the times, and it can hardly be questioned that as such they are an index to the civilization of the community. Its farmers are progressive and up-to-date and it follows that the standard of the community will be high. Thousands of banks have been organized within the last few years in order to supply the needs of the farmer. In fact, the crops of the farmer furnish most of the money for the smaller banks throughout the United States. The wholesome living, which is the good fortune of the farmer, is a big factor in keeping up the general tone of a county. Alonzo Rager is one of the prominent and influential farmers of Union township.

Alonzo Rager was born in Franklin county, Ohio, October 26, 1874, the son of Solomon and Helena (Coon) Rager.

The grandfather of Alonzo Rager was John Rager, who lived in



MR. AND MRS. ALONZO RAGER.



Franklin county, Ohio. He was of Pennsylvania Dutch descent. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, Elizabeth, Adam, George, Hiram, Solomon, Joseph, Henry, Edward, Mary and Alice. Mr. Rager's maternal grandparents were Luke and Susan (Arnett) Coon, the former of whom was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, October 8, 1826, of Scotch-Irish descent. He was reared on the farm of his parents, and upon reaching manhood was married to Susan Arnett, a native of Pennsylvania, of Dutch parentage. They had six children, John, George, Sarah, Jennie, Helena and Emelie. Luke Coon, after his marriage, continued farming in Pickaway county, where he was born, and in 1856 moved to Illinois. His wife having died in 1859, he remarried, and continued to live in Illinois until 1882, when he returned to Ohio and made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Rager.

Solomon Rager was born on June 23, 1850, in Franklin county, Ohio. He was educated in this county and reared as a farmer. He was married on January 18, 1872, to Helena Coon. After his marriage he remained on the farm, in Franklin county, and on August 23, 1884, he moved to Putnam county, where he continued to farm until his death, which occurred on January 17, 1886. His wife received a good education in Macon, Illinois, and it was in that state their marriage took place.

To Solomon and Helena Rager were born the following children: Olive, Alonzo (the subject of this sketch), Luke, Elmer, Lewis, Chester and Verda. Olive, who died on December 31, 1893, married Benjamin Good. Luke, who lives in Sugar Creek township, married Hattie Brown and has two children. Elmer, who lives in Middletown, is married and has four children. Lewis, who lives in California, married Myrtle Dresky and has four children. Chester, who lives in St. Louis, Missouri, married Naomi Summers. Verda married John Anderson, a farmer of Sugar Creek township, and has four children. Solomon Rager, the father of these children, was a Republican. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Winchester. His wife is still living and makes her home with her son Lewis on the old home place. The residence on this farm was erected in 1888.

Alonzo Rager was educated in the Union township schools and lived on his father's farm. He worked out for four years by the year on various farms. Mr. Rager was married to Ola Dicus, the daughter of Scott and Mary (Campnell) Dicus, of Union township, Putnam county.

Scott Dicus was a native of Perry township, Putnam county, Ohio, and was born on September 2, 1847. He was the son of Jacob and Hannah (Carey) Dicus. Scott Dicus was educated in the Putnam county schools,

and at the outbreak of the Civil War he and his brother, Harrison, enlisted in the Eighty-eighth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, under Captain Allen. Scott served until the close of the war, but Harrison took a severe cold, developed consumption and retired from the service. Scott Dicus married Mary Campnell on January 25, 1872, and to this union were born three children, Lillian, Ola and Russell. Scott Dicus is a prominent farmer, in Union township at the present time and is well known.

After his marriage, Mr. Rager moved to a farm of forty acres, and since this has acquired ninety acres in addition. The farm is located in sections 8 and 17, in Union township. Mr. Rager is a progressive farmer. He has erected splendid buildings on his farm and made many other improvements, chief among which was a hollow tile silo, all of which show his advanced ideas in agriculture.

To Mr. and Mrs. Rager have been born four children, one of whom died in infancy. The other three are Frederick A., born on March 25, 1901; Mary H., born on January 15, 1905, and Elnora Lucille, born on February 9, 1908. Mrs. Rager died on February 6, 1915. She became ill with typhoid fever in 1913, and suffered a general breakdown. She continued on the decline until her death. During her illness she received all the care a loving husband could bestow. Her death was a sad event to her husband, who was very much devoted to her. She was buried in Ottawa River cemetery. Mrs. Rager was a devout member of the Methodist church. She was a loving wife and mother. Mr. Rager had many sympathizing friends in his bereavement, and his loss was shared by many friends of Mrs. Rager, who loved her for her splendid qualities.

Alonzo Rager does general farming. He belongs to the Ottawa River Christian church. At the present time he owns one hundred and thirty acres of land. He is a Republican, is popular with his neighbors, intelligent and progressive in his methods. All in all, he is a representative citizen of Putnam county.

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#### FRANK HOFFMAN.

No more substantial and moral citizens have ever come to this country from foreign lands than the sons of Germany. Wherever they have settled, they have become respected citizens. As a race, they are characterized by industry and a patience which overcome all obstacles and which thus insure them success in whatever undertaking they choose to follow. Putnam county has been honored by having thousands of the sons of Germany as citizens,

but no family of German descent has ever occupied a more prominent place in the material development of the county than that of the Hoffmans. .

Frank Hoffman was born in Glandorf on March 12, 1865, and is the son of William F. and Clara (Schroeder) Hoffman. Mr. Hoffman's paternal grandparents came from Germany from the Province of Hanover and settled near Glandorf in Putnam county. They arrived here about one year after the establishment of Professor Horstman's colony, where they secured a farm and lived until their death. William F. Hoffman and wife were members of the Catholic church. Mr. Hoffman's maternal grandparents also came from Germany and settled in Greensburg township, Putnam county, on a farm. They lived in Greensburg township until their death.

William F. Hoffman, the father of Frank Hoffman, attended school in Glandorf and remained at home during the early part of his life. He learned the carpenter's trade and worked at this trade in Glandorf. Later, he became a school teacher. He was the organist at St. John's Catholic church for fifteen years when he established a general dry goods store and, after his marriage, he lived in Glandorf and taught school for twenty-five years. He divided his attention between business, school teaching and farming about eighty acres of land. The children of William F. and Clara Hoffman were as follow: two, who died in infancy; John, who died at the age of two years; Mary, William, Theresa, Amelia, who died at the age of two; Frank, Henry, Anna, who died in 1908; and Charles. Mary married Xavier Wirth and lives in Sugar Creek township; William married Veronica Halker and lives in Glandorf; Theresa married Henry Kemper and lives in Dayton, Ohio; Henry married Elizabeth Herzog and lives in Jackson township; Charles married Elizabeth Osege and lives in Glandorf; William F. Hoffman died on April 29, 1915, at the home of his son, Charles, who farms the home place. He was a state representative in the Ohio Legislature for two terms and was also justice of the peace for many years. Mrs. Hoffman died on February 6, 1898. They were members of St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf and devout in their religious duties and obligations.

Frank Hoffman attended school at Glandorf and worked in his father's store, and on the farm during vacations. He was married to Mary Ann Reckfelder, the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Nottbrock) Reckfelder, the former of whom was a native of Glandorf, Putnam county, and the latter of Glandorf, Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Reckfelder were married in Glandorf, Putnam county, and after their marriage, lived on a farm. They later moved to Glandorf in Putnam county and lived retired. Their children were Joseph, Bernard and Mary. Joseph married Elizabeth Kronbeger and

lives in Dayton, Ohio. They have had four children; Bernard died in 1908; Henry Reckfelder died on June 20, 1908, and his wife died on March 12, 1915. Both are buried at Glandorf.

Frank Hoffman was married on November 11, 1891, and after his marriage, moved to a farm in Union township. This farm consisted of eighty acres which Mr. Hoffman received from his father. The present owner has erected all of the buildings on the farm and made many improvements since he acquired possession of it. To Frank and Mary A. (Reckfelder) Hoffman several children have been born, Adelia, born on August 18, 1892; Harry, born on May 25, 1894, and died in September, 1894; Clara, born on February 15, 1896, and died in July, 1896; Alfred, born on June 8, 1897; Magdalena, born on June 28, 1899; Lawrence, born on June 26, 1901; Raymond, born on November 28, 1903, and died on June 17, 1904; Arnold, born on June 20, 1906; and Mary, born on April 11, 1908.

Frank Hoffman is a general farmer and stock raiser. He makes a specialty of Durham and Hereford cattle. He is secretary of St. Joseph's Benevolent Society. The family are all members of the Catholic church and prominent in the affairs of this denomination.

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#### FREDERICK W. VERHOFF.

It was once remarked by a celebrated moralist and biographer that there has scarcely passed a life of which a judicious and faithful narrative would not have been useful. Believing in the truth of this opinion, expressed by one of the greatest and best men, the writer of this review takes pleasure in presenting a few facts in the career of the gentleman, who, by perseverance, temperance and integrity, has worked himself from an humble station to a successful place in life and won an honorable position among the well-known and highly esteemed farmers of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio.

Frederick W. Verhoff was born on June 18, 1887, on his father's farm in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of William and Katherine (Kerner) Verhoff. William Verhoff was born in the house in which he now lives, in Ottawa township, and he was the son of Francis and Mary (Kramer) Verhoff, early settlers of Putnam county. William Verhoff is the brother of Theodore Verhoff, the life history of whom may be found in another part of this volume, gives the facts regarding the Verhoff family. It is sufficient, in this place, to say that Francis and Mary (Kramer)



Verhoff were natives of Westphalia, Prussia, and the state of Pennsylvania, respectively. Mr. Verhoff was a well-known blacksmith in the community where he lived. He died in 1863 after having acquired six hundred and forty acres of land in Putnam county. Mary Kramer was the daughter of Theodore and Gertrude (Veraking) Kramer.

Katherine Kerner, the mother of Frederick W. Verhoff, was the daughter of Mathias and Elizabeth (Kerner), the former of whom was a native of Germany and the latter of Pennsylvania. Mathias Kerner came to this country early in life and settled in Putnam county. Prior to coming here, he spent three years in South Carolina. His wife came to Putnam county, from Pennsylvania, after the death of her parents. Here she met and married Mathias Kerner. They lived on a farm the entire time of their lives.

William Verhoff spent his early life on his father's farm and attended the schools at Glandorf, in Putnam county, and where on April 20, 1880, he was married to Katherine Kerner, the daughter of Mathias and Elizabeth Kerner. They continued to live on the parental farm, which consisted of one hundred acres and which he, later, inherited from his father. William Verhoff and wife were the parents of the following children: J. Frank, Mathias, Mary, Elizabeth, Frederick, Cecelia, Leo, Dora, Hieronomous and Christopher. William Verhoff and family are all members of the Catholic church at Glandorf.

Frederick W. Verhoff, the subject of this sketch, attended school in Glandorf and lived on the homestead farm until his marriage. He was married on May 19, 1911, to Elizabeth Ellerbrock, the daughter of Henry and Theresa (Borgelt) Ellerbrock, both of whose parents came from Germany and settled in Putnam county near Glandorf. After their marriage they lived on a farm near Glandorf, and eventually purchased ninety-nine acres in Union township near Kalida, where they now live. They have had eight children, Henry, Joseph, William, Mary, Agnes, Theresa, Elizabeth and William, deceased.

After their marriage, Frederick W. and Elizabeth (Ellerbrock) Verhoff lived in Jackson township for three months on a farm of eighty acres, which they rented. They then moved to a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Greensburg township, which belonged to Mr. Verhoff's father. It is here that they still live. Mr. Verhoff is engaged in general farming, but makes a specialty of cattle and hogs.

He and his wife have been the parents of two children, Cletus, born on March 9, 1912, and Amos Henry, born on May 26, 1914.

Mr. and Mrs. Verhoff are members of St. Nicholas' Catholic church at Miller City. Frederick W. Verhoff is a pleasant young man of sturdy personal appearance and agreeable manner. He is ambitious in the better sense of the term and throughout his life has been an industrious and hard worker. She is an amiable woman and has in many ways helped her ambitious young husband.

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### HOMER EDWIN McKENZIE.

One of the rising younger generation of farmers is Homer Edwin McKenzie, a member of one of the old families of this section. Mr. McKenzie is a man of keen mentality and pronounced views on all questions of the day. He removed to his present farm home of one hundred and sixty acres the latter part of 1914, and inasmuch as he carries on the work of his farm along lines most approved by modern scientific investigation, being well versed in all that pertains to the best development of his interests, he bids fair to win a gratifying degree of success in his chosen vocation. He has passed the greater part of his life on the farm where he now lives, having first seen the light of day in that home on April 9, 1878. It was at that time the home of his parents, Erwin and Matilda (Barkmeyer) McKenzie. His father was a native of this state and his mother was also a native of Ohio. When Homer's father, Erwin McKenzie, was twenty-one years of age, he accompanied his mother to this county, the father having previously died in the old home. They settled in Greensburg township, where they bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres and partly cleared and drained the land, which farm is where our immediate subject lives at the present time. His father was one of a family of five children, the others being Homer, Susan, Lucinda and Mary. Being the eldest of the family, much of the heavier work and responsibility devolved upon Erwin, who proved a faithful son and of great assistance to the mother.

When Erwin McKenzie married, he chose as his wife Matilda Barkmeyer, a daughter of Henry and Charlotte Barkmeyer, who was brought to this county by her parents when still a small girl. Other children of the family were Henry, Elizabeth, Nettie, Edith and Matilda. After their marriage, the parents of Homer McKenzie continued to live on the mother's farm and remained there for many years, later removing to Lima, this state, where the mother died and Homer's father continues to make his home, at 220 South Collett street, that city.

Special mention is due Erwin McKenzie, owing to the fact that during the dark days of the sixties he proved himself one of the loyal sons of the nation and donned the blue to assist in protecting the integrity of our republic. He enlisted with a regiment from his native state and served with great distinction throughout his enlistment. To Erwin McKenzie and wife were born eight children. Orville married Winnie Brown and resides at Columbus Grove; they are the parents of two living children, one dead. Effie married Wilfred Stauffer and resides near Waterloo, Indiana; she is the mother of six children; Frank, deceased, and Bessie married David Bonecutter and lives in Butler, Indiana. Other children of the family were Cora, Mary Hazel and Gilson.

Homer Edward McKenzie received his education in the district schools near his home and assisted his father in the work of the farm. He remained at home until the time of his marriage on December 7, 1913, when he was united in matrimony to Florence Wing of Continental, this county. She is a daughter of Henry and Mary (Gilbert) Wing, the former born in this county and the latter of Cleveland, this state. After marriage, Henry Wing and wife, moved to a farm in this county, where they have since resided. They were married on March 17, 1866, and to them have been born the following children: Martha, born on March 10, 1868; Albert, born on September 15, 1870; Frederick, born on September 4, 1872; Florence, born on September 7, 1873; Rufus Gilbert, born on December 16, 1877, deceased; Henry Franklin, born on August 24, 1880; Mary Ann, deceased, born on July 13, 1883, and Philip, deceased, born on June 9, 1893; Martha married Hamilton Hersh and lives in Continental, where she is the mother of seven children; Albert, who now lives in California, married Gertrude Andrews and later married Lavina Derbyshire, having five children. Henry F. married Gertrude Myers and is the father of four children.

To Homer McKenzie and his wife has been born one child, Hazel Marie, who came to them on July 5, 1914. In addition to his general farming, Homer raises a special breed of Polled Durham cattle and Duroc hogs and is uniformly successful in whatever he undertakes. The farm contains one hundred and sixty acres of well-improved land and the buildings and residence, which Homer's father erected, are in good condition. Homer McKenzie makes the third generation of the family to make his home on this site, the land having originally been purchased by his grandmother.

Homer McKenzie's political preference is with the Democratic party, but he exercises his independence in such matters when he comes to the polls. His fraternal affiliation is with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and

the Modern Woodmen of America, while Mrs. McKenzie is a member of the Pythian Sisters. Both are the finest kind of young people, genial, generous and hospitable.

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### WILLIAM G. MULLET.

The people who constitute the bone and sinew of this country are not those who are unstable and unsettled, who fly from one occupation to another, who do not know how to vote until they are told, and who take no active and intelligent interest in the civic affairs of their community. The backbone of this country is made up of the families who have made their homes, who are alive to the best interest of the community, who attend to their own business in preference to the affairs of others, and who work on steadily from day to day, taking the sunshine with the storms, rearing fine families to comfortable homes and honest lives. Such people are always welcome in any community. They are the wealth producers. And Putnam county is fortunate in being blessed with many of them, among whom is William G. Mullet, a prominent farmer of Greensburg township.

William G. Mullet was born in 1865 at Ottawa, Ohio. He is the son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Crow) Mullet. Jacob Mullet was born in Switzerland, in 1840, and was the son of John and Maria (Ratz) Mullet. They came to America about 1847. They were over three months in crossing the ocean in a sailing vessel, since the wind was very low during a part of the voyage. John Mullet spent about a year at Cincinnati, and a few years at Columbus, Ohio. They located near Elm Center about 1852, while the land was all covered with timber. The land was also swampy where it was cleared, and it was necessary to bank the soil in ridges to produce any crops. Later, when the Nickel Plate railroad grade was made it gave the people work. Now this land is part of the finest land in Putnam county. It was in this section that Jacob Mullet grew to manhood. He married Elizabeth Crow in 1864. Elizabeth Crow was born in the northeastern part of Greensburg township in January, 1842, and was the daughter of W. R. and Ber-sheba (Brower) Crow.

W. R. Crow came from Columbiana county. He was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, April 12, 1821, and was the son of James and Elizabeth (Moreland) Crow, who settled here in 1835. James Crow was the son of Abraham and Rachael (Craven) Crow. Abraham Crow was born in 1748, and was among the early settlers of Pennsylvania. He was married in



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM G. MALLET



Berks county to Rachael Craven, and moved from Pennsylvania, in 1787, west to Washington county, and to Columbiana county, Ohio, about 1815. A brother of his was killed in the battle of Brandywine. He had eleven children, among whom was Abraham, who married Sarah Thompson, and who was a pioneer settler of Greensburg township, and another son was James Crow, also a pioneer of Greensburg township. He left numerous progeny and died in his ninety-seventh year. W. R. Crow's wife, Bersheba Brower, was born in Randolph county, North Carolina, in 1819. She was the daughter of Frederick and Helena (Staley) Brower. Frederick Brower was born in North Carolina, a son of Adam Brower, a native of Pennsylvania. Adam's father was the founder of the family in America. Frederick Brower was born and reared in North Carolina, and there learned shoemaking and tanning. He married Nellie Staley in Randolph county, North Carolina. Her father was a cousin of the royal family of Germany. Frederick Brower moved to Florida, returned to Ohio, and thence to Ft. Wayne, Indiana. After several other moves, he came finally to Greensburg township, Ohio, and entered ninety-three acres of land. He was the fourth settler in Greensburg township. When he came from Allen county he brought with him a hand-mill in which he used to grind corn; otherwise he would have had to go forty miles to a water-mill. In time he became the owner of four hundred and ninety-three acres, and cultivated it until his death, in June, 1875. His wife died in 1889. He was the first justice of the peace in Greensburg township and the first trustee of that township.

After Jacob Mullet married he lived in Ottawa for four years, and there engaged in the butcher business. He then spent four years on the farm in Greensburg township, and then removed to Leipsic, where he engaged in the butcher business for about six years. He then returned to Greensburg township and farmed until his death. He and his wife owned about one hundred and sixty acres of land. Mrs. Jacob Mullet died in 1887, and he died in 1900. They were the parents of eight children: William G., of Greensburg township; John A., of near Continental; Amelia B., the widow of John A. Simon, who lives in Palmer township, near Kiefersville; Anna Florence, the wife of William H. Wisterman, of Toledo; Mary Emma, the wife of Amos Ridenour, who lives near Wabash, Indiana; Luther H., of Toledo; Frederick, of Three Rivers, Michigan, and Everett, who lives near Butler, Indiana.

After the mother of these children died, their father married Mrs. Sarah Shardeman. One child was born to this marriage, Jacob Mullet.

William G. Mullet lived with his parents until he grew to manhood.

He was married, March 14, 1891, to Vela Ayers. She was born in Greensburg township, along the Blanchard river, and is the daughter of Clark P. and Sarah E. (Dangler) Ayers. Clark P. Ayers was born in 1842 in Greensburg township, and was the son of William and Rachael (Crow) Ayers. Rachael Crow was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, and came to Columbiana county, Ohio, with her parents, Abraham and Sarah (Thompson) Crow, of the Crow family above referred to, who moved to Greensburg township in 1832. William Ayers was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, a son of John and Sarah (Wallahan) Ayers. They lived in several counties before they came finally to Greensburg township in 1836. Clark P. Ayers grew up here and married Sarah Dangler, June 22, 1869. She was born in Greensburg township in 1849, and was the daughter of Jacob and Susan (Guy) Dangler. Jacob Dangler was born in Union county, Pennsylvania, in 1814, and came in 1837 to Greensburg township, Putnam county, with his parents, John and Elizabeth (Kaler) Dangler. His wife, Susan Guy, whose parents, Jesse and Jane (Schurtz) Guy, came here in 1838, was born in 1821 in Columbiana county, Ohio, and was married in this county in 1842. C. P. Ayers was a life-long farmer in Greensburg township. He was also a justice of the peace. His great grandfather, James Ayers, was a soldier in the Revolutionary army. C. P. Ayers' grandfather, John, served in the War of 1812. C. P. Ayers died in December, 1889. His widow lives with her children. She still owns the farm in Greensburg township. She is the mother of six children: Vela, the wife of W. G. Mullet, of Greensburg township; Alta, the wife of Charles Kirkendall, of Kalida; Odula, the wife of Caius Hemry, of McComb, Ohio; William W. Ayers, of Waterloo, Indiana; Rachael, the wife of J. R. Elkins, of Lacrosse, Indiana, and Merle, the wife of B. H. Stevenson, of McComb.

After the marriage of W. G. Mullet he and his wife lived about one year in Greensburg township and spent three years farming in Wabash county, Indiana. They came back to Greensburg township, in 1896, and have lived ever since where they now live, in the southwest quarter of section 1. Mr. Mullet has been a life-long farmer and a raiser of thoroughbred stock. He makes a specialty of thoroughbred Aberdeen-Angus cattle. For the past six years he has served as a member of the county fair board. Mr. Mullet has two hundred and fifty-seven acres of land in Greensburg township.

To Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Mullet five children have been born: Nora is the wife of Claude C. Stuber and lives near Miller City and has one child,



Paul John, born on February 1, 1915; Paul P., Edith E., William A. and Mildred, all of whom are at home.

Mr. Mullet has a fine country home, heated by furnace and lighted from a private lighting plant. He has a water plant furnishing hot and cold water to every room. He is pleasant and agreeable, as is also his wife, and the hospitality of the Mullet home is well known. Their neat and well-ordered premises and residence impress one and bespeak the character of the owner.

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### EDWARD BERNARD STECHSCHULTE.

The attention of the reader is now directed to the following sketch of the career of the well-known and enterprising young farmer whose name forms the caption of this article. Mr. Stechschulte has passed his entire life in this community, and the high degree of esteem in which he is held, by friends and neighbors, is ample testimony to the fact that he is one of the worthy citizens of his community. Mr. Stechschulte is a member of one branch of the well-known Kahle family, who were pioneer settlers in this section and people of great influence, who did much in the early days to establish a high standard of living in this then new territory.

Edward Bernard Stechschulte was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, on January 12, 1884, being a son of Ignatius and Magdalena (Niese) Stechschulte, both of whom were born in this same county. Ignatius Stechschulte was the eldest child of Henry and Bertha (Kahle) Stechschulte, the other children in the family being: Joseph, Frank, Gustav, Barney, Bertha, Theresa and Henry. He was born on his father's farm in Putnam county on June 2, 1854, and when a youth attended the district schools of his home neighborhood. He was noted as a most intelligent and studious pupil, and when quite young engaged in teaching school in Pleasant township. He was united in marriage on November 22, 1878, to Magdalena Niese. Shortly after marriage they took up their residence on a farm in Greensburg township, consisting of one hundred and ten acres, which farm he had at that time purchased, and upon which he proceeded to make valuable improvements in the way of buildings, etc. There the family lived, until in 1912, when Mr. Stechschulte purchased a ninety-acre farm near Owosso, Michigan, where he intends to make his future home. He is succeeding well in his chosen field of general and dairy farming, combined, and has recently disposed of forty acres of land of which he has long been

the owner in this county. Ignatius Stechschulte was one of the leading farmers of his community and his absence has been felt by many to whom he had proved himself a true friend and neighbor. He was a man who took an active interest in public affairs and for six years served Putnam county as commissioner, and had at various other times filled different offices of minor importance. Mrs. Ignatius Stechschulte, who before her marriage was Magdalena Niese, was a daughter of Barney Niese and wife, both natives of Germany, who came to this country while still quite young. The families of both of whom located in Glandorf, where the young people met and were married. After marriage they removed to a farm near Glandorf, and there lived many years until the time of her death. The father then made his home with a son in Liberty township for the remainder of his life. They were the parents of six children, namely: Elizabeth, deceased; Theresa, Anna, deceased, Agnes, Barney and Magdalena, the latter being the mother of the immediate subject of this sketch.

Henry Stechschulte, paternal grandfather of our subject, was a native of Germany, having been born in Glandorf, province of Hanevr, on September 25, 1825, died on his farm home in this county on December 16, 1908. He came to this country alone, when a young man, and first located in Cincinnati, where he worked at the cooper trade for three years. He then came to Glandorf, this county, where he had friends, and where he met and married Bertha Kahle, a native of this county. Immediately after marriage they settled on a farm where they passed the remainder of their lives, having spent many years in the proper rearing of their family and their endeavors to accumulate a modest amount of this world's goods. They lived industrious and consistent lives and were well-respected by all who knew them.

Edward Bernard Stechschulte is one of a family of nine children, the others being: Catherine, Henry, Lewis, George, Delia, Hugo, Oscar and Rudolph. When a boy he attended the common schools of his home district, and from earliest boyhood was trained by his father in the practical work about the farm home. He remained under the parental roof until the time of his marriage, in his twenty-fifth year. He was joined in wedlock on October 27, 1910, to Miss Elizabeth Fortman, a daughter of Barney and Rose (Hermiller) Fortman. They took up their residence on the farm which they have since made their home. This is located in Greensburg township and consists of eighty-eight acres, all in an excellent state of cultivation. Since making his home on the farm in question, Edward Stechschulte has

greatly remodeled the residence, has built barns and other out-buildings and generally improved the place, until it is at the present time one of the most up-to-date homes in the community. He engages in general farming and, in addition, gives considerable attention to the raising of cattle and hogs for the market. He is of large and strong physique, an excellent specimen of manhood, and possessed of high ambition and tireless energy. These excellent characteristics are making for him an enviable reputation among those who know him.

Edward Stechschulte's wife (Elizabeth Fortman) was a daughter of Barney and Rose (Hermiller) Fortman, the former being the son of Anthony Fortman and wife, and was born on his father's farm near Ottawa, this county, where he remained on the family homestead until the time of his marriage. He was one of a family of seven children, the oldest two being sons named Anthony, both of whom died in early childhood, the remaining members of the family being: Gertrude, Theodore, Bernadina, Anna and Barney. Rose Hermiller, mother of Edward's wife, was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and was brought to Putnam county by her parents when a little child of three years. Her parents were Barney and Bernadina Hermiller, both natives of Germany. After coming to this county, they settled on a farm in Greensburg township, where they lived for a number of years and where his death occurred. She then took up her residence in Glandorf, where she passed her remaining days. They were the parents of eight children, Louisa, Sophia, Rose, Mary, William, Henry, Frank and Minnie.

After their marriage, Barney Fortman and wife moved to the farm on which they still live in Putnam county. Their family consists of the following children: Barney, Dina, Mary, Ignatius, Joseph, Elizabeth, subject's wife; William and Frank. Mr. Fortman's present farm consists of eighty acres, but his holdings, formerly, were much larger, as he divided two hundred and forty acres among his sons at the time of their marriage. Mr. Fortman has practically retired from the more active duties of life, having spent many years in hard labor and having won a competency which enables him to pass his remaining years in quiet retirement if he so chooses.

Our subject votes the Democratic ticket and both he and his wife are communicants of the Roman Catholic church. They now attend St. Michael's at Miller City, but formerly were of St. John's at Glandorf. Edward Stechschulte and wife are both held in high esteem by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. She is a charming young matron, full of appreciation and sympathy for all her husband's undertakings. There are no children.

## FRANK RIEMAN, JR.

The biographer here presents a short sketch of the career of one of the younger agriculturists of Greensburg township, Putnam county, and a member of one of the old families of this section. The Rieman family first came here in pioneer times and the name has ever stood for all that is best.

Frank Rieman, Jr., the immediate subject of our sketch, is a son of Frank, Sr., and Mary (Karhoff) Rieman, and first saw the light of day on the family homestead in Greensburg township, on November 14, 1871. Frank's father is also a native of this county, having been born in Ottawa township, of parents who were natives of the German Empire, and the same is true of his mother, who was Mary, daughter of Henry and Adelaide Kerhoff.

When a boy, Frank Rieman attended the common schools of Greensburg township and assisted the father in the work about the farm, remaining under the parental roof for a year and a half after his marriage. This ceremony was solemnized on October 17, 1900, in St. John's church, Glandorf, his bride being Miss Helena Edelbrock, a daughter of William and Mary (Herlage) Edelbrock. William Edelbrock was born in Germany and came to this country with his parents where they settled on a farm in Greensburg township, the parents living here until death. William Edelbrock attended school in this county and worked at farming during his early youth. He was one of the following children of his parents: William, Andrew, Henry, Charles, Christina, William (father of Frank's wife) was married in St. John's church at Glandorf. She was a native of this county, having been born in Glandorf, where she grew to maturity and was married, after which they located on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres where they passed the remainder of their lives. Their children were: Mary, Minnie, Helena, wife of our subject; Amelia, deceased; Frank and Edward. Minnie became the wife of Henry Wurst, who lived near Ottawa, and is now widowed. She had five children, one of whom has passed away. She belongs to Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic church at Ottawa. Frank married Ida Doecker, who has died and since which time he has resided in Glandorf. This family are members of St. John's church at Glandorf.

When Frank Rieman and wife decided to go to themselves, they took up their residence on a farm adjoining the homestead, which farm contained one hundred and three acres and was owned by his father. This land he has since purchased and in addition has bought twenty-six acres adjoining, from Ignatius Kahle. Mr. Rieman carries on general farming and also raises con-

siderable cattle, however, having no particular breed. He takes pride in having good horses and many good animals have come from his stables. Since taking up his home on this farm, he has remodeled the buildings and all are in good shape and well adapted for the uses to which he puts them.

Frank and Ida (Doepker) Rieman are the parents of four children: Alfred, born on April 7, 1902; Linus, born on September 9, 1906; Edward, died on January 26, 1915, and Cornelia, born on November 19, 1914. Mr. Rieman's religious membership is with St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf, and in politics he espouses the cause of the Democratic party. He is a man of marked domestic traits, devoted to his family and their best interests. She is an amiable woman, a devoted mother and a loyal and helpful helpmate.

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#### FRANK W. DOEPKER.

One of the well-known and interesting citizens of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, is the man whose name forms the caption of this article. Mr. Doepker is a native of Germany, born in the Province of Hanover on February 29, 1841, a son of Henry and Maria Doepker. The father was a poultry dealer and farmer and in comfortable circumstances. There were nine children in the family, our immediate subject being the youngest. The others were: Theresa, Agnes, Louise, Joseph, Henry, Ignatius, William and Philip. Henry emigrated to America, locating in Ohio, and at the beginning of the Civil War, enlisted with an Ohio regiment and went to the front. He became sick while in service and died somewhere in the South. Joseph is still living at Akron, this state, and Louise came to this county and is now the wife of Henry Rayman, living in Ottoville.

Frank W. Doepker was twenty-eight years of age before he embarked for America. He landed in New York, where he remained for a short time, working in a factory. He then came to Toledo, this state, and later to Putnam county, where he worked for his brother, Joseph, in a saw-mill. He, however, remained there only six months and then became a laborer for bricklayers in this county. He, eventually, learned that trade and worked at it for many years. He was married in Germany previous to emigrating to this country. This was in 1867, and about two months after marriage, the young couple started out for the "land of the free." Twenty-five years ago he purchased the farm where he still resides and there the nine children were raised. Frank married Katrina Ginther and resides in Chicago; Minnie

married Henry Kohls and had three children, two of whom died. Mrs. Kohls died some time ago, when Mr. Kohls chose as his second wife his first wife's sister, Mary; they now reside in Ottawa, and have one child. Anna is unmarried and keeps the home for the father; Josephine became the wife of John Yauch, and they reside in Middletown, this state; Elizabeth married Joseph Tomlinson and lives in Dayton; Gustav died when a baby of but one year; Lena married Alva Cox and lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and William chose Lavina Seimetz as his life companion and they reside on a farm in Greensburg township, this county. Frank's wife passed away on July 24, 1893.

Two years ago, in 1913, Mr. Doepker, in company with his friend, Harry Landwehr, of Glandorf, this county, made a journey back to the Fatherland, remaining there for two months. They visited scenes of Frank's childhood days and traveled extensively throughout the Empire, sightseeing and enjoying many sights of which he had merely heard when a young man and living there.

Frank W. Doepker's farm contains seventy-eight acres and he carries on general farming. He has erected all the buildings on the place and made all the improvements. He is a Democrat and at one time served as assessor of the township. He is a communicant of the Roman Catholic church, being of the parish at Miller City. Mr. Doepker is a genial and friendly man who has a host of friends and is much liked and admired by all who know him, for his sterling qualities of heart and mind.

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### JOSEPH HENRY KAHLE.

By the marriage, in the year 1900, of Joseph Henry Kahle to Wilhelmina Smith, there was effected a happy union of two of the oldest families in Putnam county, and it is but fitting that there should be presented in this valuable volume of biographical narrative relating to the prominent families of this county a brief sketch of the head of the new household that was then created.

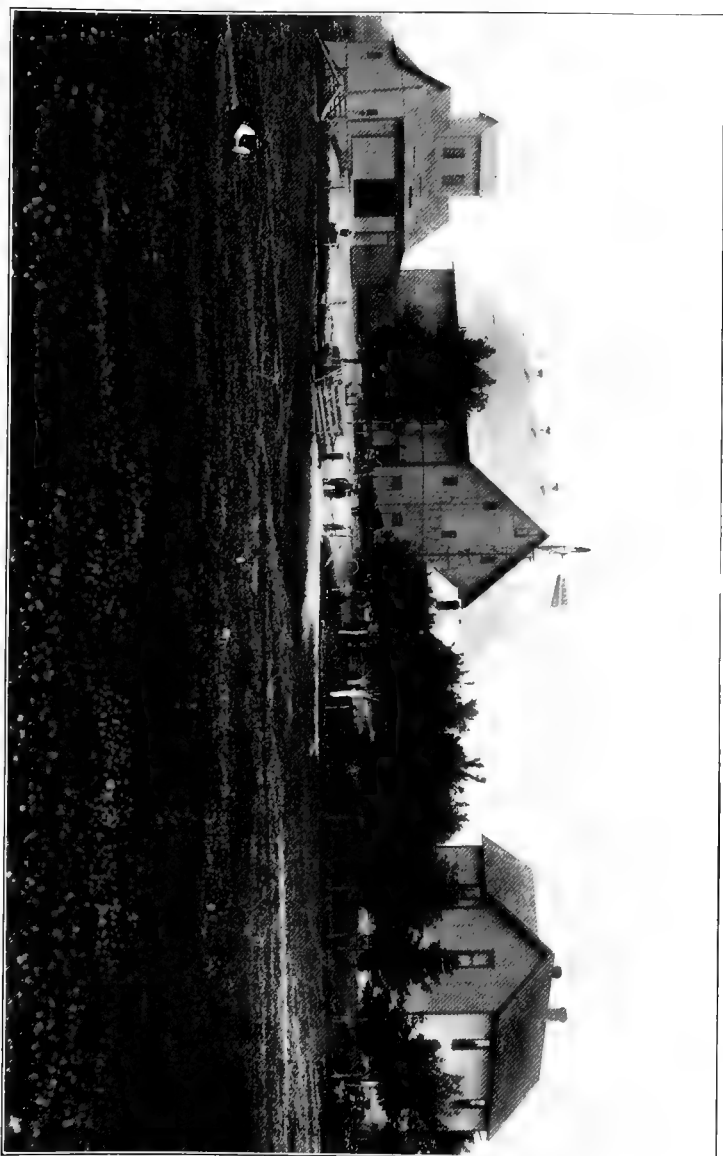
Joseph Henry Kahle was born on a farm in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, January 18, 1874, the son of Frank Kahle, a member of one of the oldest and best-known families in Putnam county, the genealogy of which will be found set out in a biographical sketch of Frank Kahle, father of the immediate subject of this sketch, presented elsewhere in this volume.





MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH H. KAHLE.





RESIDENCE OF JOSEPH H. KAHLE.



Joseph Henry Kahle was educated in the schools of his native township and grew to manhood on the paternal farm, being carefully instructed in all the details of farming life, and there he remained until his marriage, in the year 1900, after which he moved on a farm of eighty acres, which he had purchased in section 17 of Union township, where he has since made his home. This original eighty acres was a part of the old Kahle farm, and Mr. Kahle later added to the same a tract of one hundred and eighty-two acres adjoining, eighty acres of which lies in Greensburg township. This farm is noted far and near for the excellent character of its buildings, there being eight in all upon it, all of the most substantial structure, from the splendid dwelling house to the humblest outbuilding, and all of which are designed for the greatest convenience and comfort. Mr. Kahle believes in taking proper care of his domestic animals, and the buildings erected for them have left nothing to be desired for the most humane treatment of his stock.

In addition to his considerable operations in the line of general farming and stock raising, Mr. Kahle has become a potent figure in the business life of his community, and is reckoned as among the leading men in that section of the county in all things pertaining to the highest development of the community interest. He is the president of the Peoples Bank at Kalida, and is well known and popular among the business men in all parts of the county. There are few public enterprises, affecting his immediate neighborhood, in which Mr. Kahle is not in some manner interested, and his influence in the affairs of that section of the county is growing constantly.

Joseph Henry Kahle was united in marriage, on November 7, 1900, to Wilhelmina Smith, daughter of the late L. Jacob Smith, who, for many years, was one of the best loved and most influential men in that part of the county. For further details of the genealogy of Mrs. Kahle the reader is referred to the biographical sketch of her brother, Frank Smith, presented elsewhere in this volume.

To Joseph Henry and Wilhelmina (Smith) Kahle there have been born eight children, as follow: Infant, deceased, born on August 10, 1901; Frank Jacob, born on August 14, 1902; Joseph Cyrrels, born on July 5, 1904; Alfred Harry, born on June 5, 1906; Hubert Joseph, born on December 30, 1909; Florentine Mary, born on July 27, 1911; Cletus Arnold, born on March 31, 1913, and August Robert Victor, born on April 24, 1915. This promising quiverful of youngsters keep things lively about the Kahle home and are the great delight of their devoted parents' lives.

Mr. and Mrs. Kahle are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, and their children are being reared in the firm faith of the church, to which institution they are devoted and are earnest and active supporters of its various beneficences, their service to the parish being as unselfish as it is generous. In all the other good works of the community they are also deeply interested, and no couple in that part of the county is more popular or more highly esteemed than are Mr. and Mrs. Kahle.

Mr. Kahle is a man of the most engaging personality, wholesome and genial in his demeanor and popular with all. He is a good farmer and an excellent business man, and is doing well his part in the community.

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### JOSEPH KERNER.

The true measure of individual success is determined by what one has accomplished. An enumeration of those men of the present generation who have been successful in their life work and who, at the same time, have left the impress of their strong personality upon the community, men who have won honor and recognition for themselves and who have conferred honor upon the locality in which they reside, would be incomplete with a failure to make specific mention of Joseph Kerner, a well-known retired farmer of Greensburg township. His life has been a busy one, but he has never allowed anything to interfere with his Christian obligations or the faithful performance of his church duties. Mr. Kerner has lived to rear a large family which is highly esteemed and respected throughout all Putnam county.

Joseph Kerner was born on September 24, 1848, in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Mathias and Elizabeth Kerner. Mathias Kerner was born in Germany, and his wife was born in Pennsylvania. The former came to America and settled in Putnam county early in life, but prior to arriving in Putnam county he spent three years in South Carolina. His wife came to Putnam county from Pennsylvania after the death of her parents. She met and married Mathias Kerner and they moved to the farm where Joseph Kerner now lives. They acquired a substantial competency and lived upon this farm during practically their entire life.

Joseph Kerner, the subject of this sketch, was reared on his father's farm and attended the public schools in Putnam county. Mr. Kerner was married on November 6, 1872, to Mary Schaeffer. She was born on Novem-

ber 18, 1853, and is the daughter of Henry and Agnes (Hoffman) Schaeffer. Both her parents were born in Germany, and were there married. Three days after their marriage, Henry and Agnes Schaeffer came to America, and settled in Brooklyn, New York, where they remained for some time. Subsequently, they removed to West Virginia, and, eventually, came to Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, where Mr. Schaeffer followed the blacksmith trade, which he had learned in his native country. They lived in Putnam county for many years and reared a family of four children, John was born in 1856, Clara was born in 1859, Mary became the wife of Mr. Kerner, and Clara, deceased, married Barney Kolaff. John was thrice married, the first time to Theresa Schrader, the second to Katrina Recker, and the third time to Caroline Lemkuhle. After their marriage, Joseph Kerner and wife moved to Mr. Kerner's farm in section 22, Greensburg township, and here they have spent practically their entire life.

Joseph Kerner and wife are the parents of the following children: Mathias, born on April 6, 1874; Elizabeth, born on December 6, 1875; Carolina, born on November 9, 1877, and died on October 21, 1881; Amalia was born on November 22, 1879; Katrina was born on January 26, 1882; Mary T. was born on December 8, 1884; Mary Ann was born on April 26, 1887; John Edward was born on November 3, 1889; Rosa was born on October 20, 1892. Elizabeth Kerner married Barney Merschman, and they have the following children: Philomena, Edward, Clara, Frank, Bernard and two who died in infancy. Their home is in Ottawa. Amalia married John Kolhoff, and they live near Alma, Michigan. They have four children, Wilfred, Alvine, Cletus and Collette. Katrina married Barney Gerdling and they have six children, Clarence, Louis, Adelia, Edwin, Marcella and Ambrose. Mary T. married John Siebeneck and they have two children living, Mary and Edward. Four children are deceased. Mary Ann married Chris Marmon and they have four children, Hubbard, Loretta, Leo and Sylvester. Edward married Anna Rieman and they have one child, Marcella. Mathias married Mary Merschman and they live on the farm adjoining that of Mr. Kerner. They have five children, Eleanore, Harry, Loretta, Emma and Victor. Rosa is unmarried and lives at home.

Joseph Kerner is an active man for his advanced years and can do a day's work as well as the average man of younger years. He has a splendid farm of eighty acres which is devoted to general farming. He and his wife are proud of their many grandchildren and are a happy couple. Mrs. Kerner is a very active woman, of motherly disposition. The Kerner family

has been very highly esteemed in Putnam county for several generations. All the members of this family are affiliated with the Catholic church, and politically, most of the Kerners are Democrats.

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### JOHN B. EDELBROCK.

John B. Edelbrock, to a short sketch of whose career the attention of the reader is directed, was born on the farm where he now lives on May 11, 1871, being a son of Henry and Theresa Edelbrock.

Mr. Edelbrock is a descendant of some of the oldest pioneers of this section, being a grandson of Peter and Anna M. Edelbrock, who were natives of Prussia, Germany, and were married in that country about 1823 and remained in Germany until about 1834, when they emigrated to America, landing at Baltimore. They remained here for a short time, then came and joined Father Horstman's colony of German settlers in Glandorf, Putnam county, and after a short time settled on a farm near Glandorf, where they lived until death. He died in 1844, and his wife in 1864. They located on a farm in Greensburg township, containing eighty acres. This was government land which they secured and virgin soil. They lived the life of the pioneers to the day when they could see their farm developed into a clean and productive piece of land. Their children were, Frank, William, Andrew, Henry, father of our immediate subject; Clara and Christina, Charles, Edward and Theodore, all of whom are now deceased. Frank and William served in the same Ohio regiment during the Civil War, and Frank was killed during a battle. They served in the Thirty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Henry Edelbrock received his education in the district schools near his home, and also at Glandorf. During his young manhood he worked on his father's farm and, in 1857, was united in marriage to Theresa Siebeneck and, after their marriage, they went to live on the farm which is now occupied by the subject. Theresa was the daughter of Henry and Mary Siebeneck, also of the Province of Hanover, Germany, and members of the same colony above referred to. They took up a tract of government land, containing forty acres, and there they lived until the end of their lives. There were two daughters in the family, the other being Mary, who became the wife of Barney Ellerbrock and lives in Glandorf. She is widowed, her husband having been dead for some time. Both Henry and Theresa Edel-

brock have passed from this life, but they leave behind them the memory of thrifty, honest lives, and both were of so genuinely friendly natures that they were much liked and esteemed by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

John B. Edelbrock is one of a family of eight children, namely: Frank, William, Mary, Kate, John, Joseph, Benjamin and Minnie. Frank is in Central America. William married Theresa Huester and lives in Greensburg township. He is the father of three children, Hulda, Louis and Elnora. Mary became the wife of Henry Fipp, of Glandorf, and is the mother of two children, Charles and August. Kate is Mrs. Frank Erhart, of Greensburg township, and is the mother of six children, Laura, Flora, Benjamin, Harry, Edna and Minnie; both boys, however, being deceased. Benjamin married Elnora Kacht and lives in Greensburg township. He has four children, Velma, Clarence, Raymond and Mabel. John, Joseph and Minnie remain unmarried. The father of this family died in 1907 and the mother passed away in 1912.

John B. Edelbrock, with his sister, Minnie, lives on the old homestead. This farm contains one hundred and twenty acres, all under cultivation, with good buildings. They are accounted among the good and substantial people of the community and are much liked. Both are members of St. John's, Glandorf, the entire family being communicants of the Roman Catholic church. The Edelbrock family from the very earliest arrival in this country have been, and are today, among that substantial class of Germans who have done much for Putnam county and its material prosperity.

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#### LEWIS SIMON.

One of the influential citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, is Lewis Simon, who, for many years, has been a well-known farmer in Greensburg township. He is a man of excellent endowments and upright character and has been a valued factor in local affairs. Mr. Simon has long commanded the unequivocal confidence and esteem of the people of Putnam county. He has been loyal to the upbuilding of his community and ever vigilant in his efforts to promote the interests of his county, morally and otherwise. Although Mr. Simon is enfeebled and is no longer able to work, as he formerly did, he is possessed of a remarkable memory and is, personally, familiar with the most interesting details of the entire growth of this section of Putnam county.

Lewis Simon was born on April 24, 1838, in Putnam county. He is the son of John P. and Savilla (Genshimer) Simon, the former of whom was born in Kintingheim, Germany, on the Rhine, and the latter of whom was also born in Germany, in 1812.

John P. and Savilla (Genshimer) Simon had several children, as follow: John, a farmer near Dupont, Ohio, who was born in Germany; Catherine and Philip have long been deceased; Lewis, the subject of this sketch; Jacob, who died in childhood; Barbara, who became the wife of Michael Rinkle, of Dupont; Louisa, deceased; Sophia married the Rev. Philip Kesler, of Dupont; Mrs. A. L. Hauck, of Ottawa; Anna, who became the wife of W. J. Varner, of Greensburg township; Savilla, who married J. W. Parnell, of Greensburg township; Elizabeth, deceased, and John Adam, who died at the age of ten years.

After their marriage, John P. and Savilla (Genshimer) Simon, came to the United States, locating in Philadelphia. Subsequently, they located in Richland county, Ohio, where they were pioneers. They located in Putnam county, Ohio, in 1836. John P. purchased a tract of wild land, upon which he lived until 1863. During all of this period he was closely identified with the pioneer history of the county. He became a general merchant at Ottawa, in 1863, and was successful. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity at Defiance and afterward became a charter member of the lodge at Kalida. He was a commissioned officer in the state militia and stood high in Putnam county as one of the leading exponents of law and order. Before the Civil War, he was identified with the Democratic party, but after that, was independent in politics. He was prominent in politics, locally, and filled many offices. He died on April 29, 1888, at which time he was a member of the Presbyterian church. John P. Simon's first wife, Savilla Genshimer, the mother of all of his children except John Adam, died in 1856. Later he married Mrs. Margaret M. Landis, who bore him one son, John Adam, in 1859. His third wife was Mrs. Margaret Hedges, who died on March 25, 1895.

Lewis Simon, the son of John P. and Savilla (Genshimer) Simon, was reared on the farm and obtained his education in the log school house, typical of his day and generation. Lewis Simon was first married on April 13, 1861, to Barbara M. Dangler, daughter of George and Fannie (Fender) Dangler. Four children were born to this marriage, Anna married H. J. Kirkendall; Veronica married George Ridenour; John A. lived to be forty-five years of age, and Barbara died in infancy. Mrs. Barbara M. (Dangler) Simon died on May 11, 1868. Mr. Simon was next married to Jennie Apger



on March 13, 1870. She was a daughter of John R. and Elizabeth Apger, and a native of Carroll county, Ohio, born on February 10, 1874. To this second marriage seven children were born, Mary L. died on October 31, 1876; Charles E., married Carrie Shafer, and lives in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, and they have six children, Paul, Helen, Mary, George, Margaret and Ruth Anna; Chester L. was first married to Maud Jenkins, daughter of David Jenkins and wife, and had three children by this marriage, Edna, Gale and Lowell; he was married a second time to Carrie Holbgewoks, daughter of John Holbgewoks, of Putnam county, and lives in Palmer township, Putnam county; Ora A. married P. D. Russell, son of John P. and Carolina Russell, of Iuka, Illinois, and they have one child, Jennie; Lewis W., Jr., married Grace Keck, daughter of Levi and Lucy Keck, of Continental, Ohio; Lewis W., Jr., died in 1911; he was survived by his wife and three children, Edna, Robert and Howard, the widow and children now living in McBride, Michigan; Blanche married Ralph Schaefer, son of John and Ruth Schaefer; they live in Perry township, Putnam county, and have two children, Geraldine and Howard; Ralph B., the youngest living child, was born on September 15, 1887. He attended the common schools of Putnam county, and also attended the Continental high school. After that he entered the Ohio State University and took the degree of Bachelor of Science. Ralph B. Simon was a student from 1908 to 1912. During his college life, he was a director of the glee club. He married Rowena Kuntz on May 22, 1913, and makes his home at his father's farm. His wife's parents were natives of Putnam county and were farmers. Her father died in 1912.

Lewis Simon is a man of remarkable memory. He has led an active life and chafes at the thought of enforced idleness on account of his sickness. His farm consists of one hundred and fifty-five acres of splendid land, where general farming is carried on. Ralph B., who has active charge of the farm, also specializes in stock raising. The buildings on the farm are models of completeness. The farm is one of the best in Putnam county. The barn especially is not excelled in Putnam county for size, substantiality and convenience. Mr. Simon is a member of Masonic Lodge No. 325, at Ottawa. Until recent years he has been active in the United Brethren church and an active Sunday school worker. Lately, he has been identified with the Prohibition party. He has filled the office of justice of the peace of Greensburg township in a most satisfactory manner.

Mrs. Lewis Simon is an active woman of cheerful disposition. She has been a great inspiration to her husband. Her father, John R. Apger,

was born in New Jersey, in 1816, and was a son of Isaac Apger, also a native of New Jersey and of English descent. Isaac Apger was one of the pioneer farmers of Carroll county, Ohio, and moved to Wood county in 1847, when that county was unbroken wilderness. John R. Apger, Mrs. Simon's father, was educated in New Jersey and reared as a farmer. He learned the shoemaker's trade and worked at it occasionally. He married Elizabeth Atchley, in 1837. She was a daughter of Isaac and Anna (Van Horn) Atchley, natives of New Jersey, but who later resided in New York. To this marriage the following children were born: Mary C.; Mrs. Lewis Simon; Marion M.; Isaac N., deceased; Anderson S., who was a soldier in the Civil War; Alletty A., deceased, and Lizzie, also deceased. Mrs. Elizabeth Apger was born in New Jersey in 1812 and moved with her parents to New York before her marriage. Mr. Apger settled in Carroll county in 1865, farming there for ten years. He then moved to Wood county, Ohio, and entered a tract of land, clearing the land and teaching school in the meantime. His first wife died on March 25, 1865. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Apger was next married in Wood county, in 1866, to Mrs. Matilda Wyckoff, and four children were born to this marriage, Benton, Earl J., Cloise and Blanche. Mr. Apger was a Democrat in politics. He died on May 12, 1882. He was also a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

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#### GEORGE D. KINDER.

There is no agency which exerts a more powerful influence upon the nation today than the press, and the editor who keeps in close touch with the progress of the times and faithfully records the news from day to day, is performing a mission of inestimable value. Ohio has several hundred newspapers, and there is not a county but has its local papers, usually both of the leading political parties being represented thereby. Putnam county Democracy has supported the *Putnam County Sentinel* for nearly three-quarters of a century, and the paper, during all of these years has stood not only for the principles of the party, but has also taken an active part in the advancement of every measure which has been proposed for the general welfare of the county.

For nearly half a century George D. Kinder has been connected in one capacity or another with the *Sentinel*, and his record as a newspaper man is such that he rightly ranks with the leaders of the profession in the state



GEORGE D. KINDER.



of Ohio. Starting in to learn the business when a mere youth, he has made it his life work, and the success which has attended his efforts is ample evidence of his ability. As a newspaper editor, as a county official, as a member of the school board of Ottawa, as a successful business man, as a public-spirited citizen and as a man devoted to his home and family, George D. Kinder may justly be included among the truly representative men of his county and state.

George D. Kinder was born in Franklin, Warren county, Ohio, November 6, 1836, a son of Captain George and Eliza (Schnorf) Kinder. On the paternal side he traces his ancestry back to the burghers of Holland, and the Dutch characteristics of thrift and conscientious devotion to duty have been handed down through each succeeding generation. After receiving a good common school education, the youthful George entered the printing office of his brother when he was fifteen years of age. His brother, at that time, was the owner and editor of the *Hamilton Telegraph*, one of the leading papers of that city. He served as an apprentice for a few years and learned all the little details which go to make a successful newspaper man. He then worked as a journeyman printer until 1862, when he went to Sandusky, Ohio, and established the *Erie County News*, a Democratic weekly, which he published until 1864. He then moved his newspaper plant to Port Clinton, Ohio, and founded the *Ottawa County News*. He continued this paper for only a short time and then disposed of it to advantage and purchased the *Greenville (Ohio) Democrat*. This paper was not very prosperous when Mr. Kinder took charge of it, but, under his able management, it was soon put on a paying basis. For two years he remained in Greenville at the head of the paper and then disposed of it at a handsome profit. His next venture was with the *Bucyrus Forum*, which he managed and edited for Thomas Coughlin until the summer of 1867.

Mr. Kinder came to Ottawa, Ohio, in June, 1867, and purchased an interest in the *Putnam County Sentinel*, becoming the editor and general manager of the paper. A year later he became the sole owner of the paper, retaining the ownership until in January, 1900. A complete history of this paper is given in the newspaper chapter elsewhere in this volume. During his long connection with the paper Mr. Kinder made it one of the leading Democratic papers of this section of the state. While he was always a fearless advocate of the principles and policies of his party, he was always fair to his political opponents and won their respect if he did not secure their favor. As long as he was connected with the paper he refused to become a candidate for public office, although he was frequently importuned

to do so by his many friends. It is safe to say that, for a quarter of a century, he was the leader of his party, not only in local matters, but also for many years one of the men who helped to shape the policies of his party in state affairs. Serving frequently on congressional and state committees, he was thrown in touch with the leaders of his party in the state, and was thus given an opportunity to be of benefit to the party whose cause he so ably espoused.

After retiring from the *Sentinel* in 1900, Mr. Kinder became a candidate for county treasurer and was elected, in the fall of the same year, by a handsome majority. His first term gave such universal satisfaction that he was renominated by his party and again elected, filling the office for a period of four years. He introduced many needed reforms in the administration of the duties connected with the office and had the satisfaction of knowing that his changes in the conduct of the office have been followed by his successors. After leaving the treasurer's office, Mr. Kinder was elected a member of the board of public affairs, and has been re-elected every two years since the passage of the law creating the office. His present term expires in January, 1916. The only other public office which he has held was that of school director, filling a position on the board of Ottawa for five years.

When Mr. Kinder retired from the newspaper business, in 1900, he never expected to identify himself with a paper again, but the call of the press could not be denied. Immediately after leaving the treasurer's office he found himself unable to keep away from the *Sentinel* office, and few days went by which did not see him at his old desk. He assumed complete editorial management of the *Sentinel* in 1911, and continued in this capacity until 1913, when A. P. Sandles became the editor. Since that time Mr. Kinder has devoted himself to the local department of the paper, and the chances are that he will retain his connection with the paper as long as he is able to get to the office. For considerably more than half a century Mr. Kinder has been in the newspaper business, and it is probable that there is not a man in the state who can equal his record for continuous service.

Mr. Kinder was married in February, 1869, to Zella Gordon, and to this union have been born two children, Gordon and Zella. Gordon was educated in the Ottawa schools and later graduated from the law department of Ohio State University. He married Charlotte Duncan and has two interesting little children. He is now practicing law in Martins Ferry, Ohio. Zella, the other child of Mr. and Mrs. Kinder, is the wife of J. C. Spencer, a real estate and insurance agent of Findlay, Ohio.

Mr. Kinder has been a director of the Ottawa Home and Savings Association for many years and has extensive property interests in his home town. As a newspaper man he has been unusually successful in a financial way, and has always invested his money in local enterprises. In his social connections, Mr. Kinder is a member of the Masonic fraternity, holding his membership in the blue lodge, chapter and council at Ottawa, and in Shawnee commandery at Lima. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Royal Arcanum.

The publishers were glad to avail themselves of Mr. Kinder's services in the preparation of the present history of Putnam county. His connection with the leading newspaper of the county during the past half century and his active participation in every phase of the county's development makes him as able an editor as could be secured for a work of this kind.

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#### FRANK F. VERHOFF.

Among the men of sterling worth and strength of character who have made an impression upon the life of the locality in which they live, none have received a larger reward of popular respect and regard than Frank F. Verhoff, whose family name is well known throughout this section of the county. Lifelong residence in one locality has given the people an opportunity to know him in every phase of his character, and that he has been true to life in such measure, is manifest in the degree of confidence and regard in which he is held by those who know him.

Frank F. Verhoff was born in Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, March 24, 1847, and is the son of Francis and Mary (Kramer) Verhoff. The paternal grandparents were born, lived and died in Germany, and the maternal grandparents, Theodore and Gertrude (Veraking) Kramer, were married in Germany and resided there many years. Coming to this country when Mr. Kramer was about fifty years of age, they settled on a farm in Putnam county, Ohio, and to them were born six children, William, Henry, Catherine, Christena, Mary and Frederick, all of whom are now deceased, excepting a son, Frederick.

Francis Verhoff, father of Frank F. Verhoff, was born in Westphalia, Prussia, and came to America in the year 1836, by himself, and settled on a small tract consisting of twenty-six acres, near the town of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. He, having learned the trade of a blacksmith, bore the reputa-

tion of having started the first shop of this kind in Putnam county, the same having been operated in connection with the farm for many years. This shop carried a reputation for doing first-class workmanship and furnishing high-grade material for the work at hand.

About the year 1837, Francis Verhoff and Mary Kramer were joined in wedlock and took up their residence on the former's farm. To them were born eleven children, Theodore, Gertrude, Christena, Catherine, Mary Ann, Frank, Henry, William, now deceased; Charles, William and Florentine. The father, prior to his death in 1863, had acquired a full section, consisting of six hundred and forty acres of land. With the assistance of his sons, the greater portion of this land was cleared and prepared for general farming and the raising of stock. Mr. Verhoff was one of the pioneer settlers of this community, coming here shortly after the founding of the town of Glandorf by Professor Horstman, who was a native of Germany. Francis Verhoff and wife were active members of St. John's Catholic church, of Glandorf, Ohio, from which church they were buried during the year 1901, leaving behind them reputations for high-class citizenship and setting a good example for posterity to imitate.

Frank F. Verhoff, the subject of this review, received his education in the county schools and lived under the parental roof until the time of his marriage on April 30, 1873, and up to which time he had acquainted himself with the necessary knowledge for farming by assisting his father around the place. His wife was Catherine Mersman, whose parents, Henry and Elizabeth (Recker) Mersman, were natives of Germany, but who came to this country separately. By their marriage, besides Catherine, were born Theresa, Henry and Mary. Theresa is the wife of Henry Drerup and lives in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio; Henry is married to Anna Hulker, and now lives in the town of Glandorf, Ohio.

Soon after the marriage of Frank F. Verhoff, he, with his wife, took up their residence on the one hundred and forty-four acres which was deeded to him at the time of the elder Verhoff's death, being a portion of the six hundred and forty acres acquired during his lifetime, all of which was divided among the sons. The children born to Frank F. Verhoff and wife are: Elizabeth, born on January 20, 1875, and deceased on January 4, 1878; Anna, born on November 19, 1877; Mary, born on February 24, 1881, and Frank, born on March 11, 1884. Of these children, Anna became the wife of Frank Kahle and to them were born four children, their mother now being deceased; Mary was married to Lawrence Hamel and they have three children, and reside near Kalida, Ohio; Frank married Nora Schoeder and they



have three children, the latter family making their home on his father's farm. Besides general farming, a specialty is made of Shorthorn cattle and Duroc hogs. Frank Verhoff's wife died on March 23, 1884.

Mr. Verhoff is a staunch supporter of the Democratic party. He is a member of St. John's Catholic church of Glandorf, Ohio. In farming, political and social circles, Mr. Verhoff enjoys a wide acquaintance and is deservedly popular, possessing, to a marked degree, those qualities of character which win and retain friendship. He is quiet, unassuming and very intelligent. He is retired from active work.

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### FRANK KAHLE, SR.

Although some time has elapsed since the subject of this memoir was called into the life beyond, yet his memory is still fresh in the minds and hearts of many of his friends and neighbors. Frank Kahle was a popular man in his own community and had the reputation of being a man of boundless energy and ambition. It is said that those who live the closest to us know us best and, this being true, Frank Kahle was indeed a worthy man, for those most closely associated with him hold him the dearest in their memories.

Frank Kahle, Sr., was a native of this county, born in Greensburg township on his father's farm on December 21, 1839. He was a son of John F. and Bernadina (Wilberding) Kahle, who were among the oldest settlers of this community. The Kahle family has, throughout a long stretch of years, been numbered among the best citizens of this section and the subject of this memoir added his quota to the excellency of the family name. Frank Kahle was reared on his father's farm in Greensburg township and passed his entire life on the one homestead. In early manhood, he was united in marriage to Bernadina Brinkman, born in this county in 1846, a daughter of Henry and Mary (Rieman) Brinkman. The Brinkman's were both natives of the German Empire, and upon emigrating to America, they first located in Cincinnati, Ohio, where, however, they remained but a short time. They, eventually, came to Glandorf, Putnam county, and later engaged in farming. There were two children in the family, Bernadina, widow of Frank Kahle, and John. John chose Minnie Maag as his helpmeet and they were the parents of three children: Frank, Harry and Francis.

Frank Kahle's father was one of the colonists who came from Germany

with Father Horstman and settled the town of Glandorf. His father was John Kahle, and with Father Horstman, preceded the rest of the colonists, who remained in Detroit, and Father Horstman and John Kahle prepared the settlement for them and they came from Detroit a short time later. His son, Joseph, is president of the Peoples Bank of Kalida, a sketch of whom is found elsewhere in this volume.

To Frank Kahle and wife was born a family of twelve children, as follow: Mary Wilhelmina, deceased; John Frank, John Heinrich Joseph, John Ignatius Gustav, Mary Bernadina Amalia, Theresa Bernadina, Mary Helen Elizabeth, Mary Frances Paulina, deceased; John Heinrich Bernard, Anna Maria Theresa, John August Louie, deceased, and Maria Clara Wilhelmina. Of these children, Mary married Frank Schrader and lived in Greensburg township up to the time of her death. She passed away five years ago and is survived by her husband and nine children. John Heinrich Joseph married Wilhelmina Smith and is the father of six children. Mary Bernadina Amalia became the wife of Hubert Smith and is the mother of eight children. They reside in Greensburg township. Theresa Bernadina remains unmarried, and lives with her mother. Mary Helena Elizabeth is the wife of Frank Smith and is the mother of six children. That family lives in Union township, this county. John Heinrich Bernard chose Anna Schroeder as his wife and lives on the old family homestead; he is the father of one child. Anna Maria Theresa married Joseph Grote and has one child. Maria Clara Wilhelmina resides with the widowed mother. John Frank married Anna Verhoff, who died later. He is now in the sugar-beet industry. There are four children in that family. John Ignatius Gustav married Katrina Duling and they reside on a farm in Greensburg township, where they are raising a family of six children.

Frank Kahle possessed considerable of this world's goods. His father had left him a goodly portion, but by habits of thrift and energy he greatly added to it until he had accumulated quite a fortune. The farm on which his widow continues to reside, contains two hundred acres and it has on it the finest buildings to be seen in many miles. It easily ranks as one of the very finest farms in Putnam county and ranks with the very best throughout this state. Mrs. Kahle has kept up her interest in the farm home, and in spite of her years, is closely associated with her son, Benjamin, in the active management of the farm. Her vitality, both mentally and physically, is far beyond that of the average woman of lesser years and she is well versed in all that pertains to the best interests of their business. The farm is given over to the cultivation of grain and the raising of cattle.

Frank Kahle's death occurred on February 23, 1898, and both himself and family were of the parish of St. John's, Glandorf. It is all too true that our influence lives, a vital force, long after we are gone from this world. This is well when our lives have been all that they should be, and to be deplored when evil influences have been set in motion by us, but the children of this good man can well be thankful that his life was so lived as to shed a beneficent influence on, not only the ones of his immediate household, but the charm of his personality permeated the lives of his large circle of friends.

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### BENJAMIN EDELBROCK.

Benjamin Edelbrock, member of the well-known family of that name, connected with the early history of Putnam county, Ohio, was born on his father's farm in Greensburg township on May 20, 1879. He is a son of Henry and Theresa (Siebeneck) Edelbrock, and Henry in his turn is a son of Peter Edelbrock, who, together with his wife, came from their native home in the Province of Hanover, German Empire, as members of the colony headed by Father Horstman, which founded the city of Glandorf in this county. This was about the year 1834, and the Edelbrocks have been prominent in the life of the county ever since.

Benjamin Edelbrock remained under the parental roof until the time of his marriage. When a boy he attended the district schools, near his home, and during spare times was educated in the work about the farm home. He chose as his bride Miss Elnora Kracht, daughter of Frank and Theresa Kracht, with whom he was united in marriage on June 23, 1903.

Frank Kracht, present county commissioner of Putnam county, was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, on December 25, 1851, and six years later was brought by his parents to this county, where they located on a farm near Glandorf. He married Theresa Hoffman, born in Glandorf, on January 6, 1859, and to their union was born a family of five daughters, namely: Amelia, born on August 22, 1878; Theresa J., born on March 18, 1880; Laura A., born on November 8, 1881; Elnora, born on April 24, 1883, and Caroline, born on January 27, 1886. The mother of this family died on August 29, 1886, and Mr. Kracht later united in marriage with Anna Neidert, who bore him six children. Her death occurred on June 12, 1901, and he was again married, this time to Catherine Pund. Mr. Kracht was for many years a farmer and thresherman and in this way formed a wide

acquaintance. Being a man of pleasing manner, when he entered the political arena, his success was an assured thing from the start. He has been a contractor, has served as clerk of Ottawa township and also as its treasurer, and is at present filling out his term as county commissioner.

Of Mrs. Edelbrock's sisters, Amelia married Louis Welde and resides in Ottawa. She is the mother of four children, one being dead. Laura married Anthony Prusendorfer and is now widowed. She makes her home in Defiance, this state, where also Caroline, who has never married, resides. Theresa married Henry Fembert and lives in Pleasant township, Putnam county.

After marriage, Benjamin Edelbrock and his wife took up their residence on the farm where they now live. This contains forty acres, given to him by his father at the time of his marriage, to which he has added another twenty. The land has since been well cleared and drained. All the buildings have been erected by him and are in good condition. Mr. Edelbrock conducts general farming and also raises a few head of cattle each year for the market. Into the home have come four children, namely: Velma, born on March 16, 1904; Clarence, born on April 10, 1905; Raymond, born on July 19, 1906, and Mabel, born on February 21, 1912. Mr. Edelbrock is a most agreeable man to meet and is able to number his friends by the score. He is a Democrat in politics and his religious affiliation is with St. John's at Glandorf. He is an active and ambitious young man, with the natural industry of his family.

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#### BARNEY GERDEMAN.

A member of one of the oldest and best-known families in Putnam county, Barney Gerdeman, a prosperous and progressive farmer of Union township, this county, enjoys the esteem of all who know him and very properly is accorded a place as among the leading citizens of the part of the county in which he was born and where his whole life has been spent. His wife, also, is a member of one of the old families of the county, and the two are very popular in their large circle of acquaintances.

Barney Gerdeman was born in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, May 11, 1873, the son of Henry and Bernadina (Eickholt) Gerdeman, both natives of Putnam county, the former of whom was born on February 19, 1842, the son of Caspar and Anna Gerdeman, natives of Germany, the latter





MR. AND MRS. BARNEY GERDEMAN.



RESIDENCE AND BARN OF BARNEY GERDEMAN.





of whom was born on May 15, 1846, the daughter of Barney and Elizabeth (Nieman) Eickholt, also natives of Germany.

Caspar Gerdeman and his wife, Anna, came to America from Germany and located in Putnam county, Ohio, at an early day in the settlement of the county. Here they cleared a farm, and on this farm reared their family and spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of seven children, Caspar, Joseph, Henry, Mathias, Theodore, Mary and Elizabeth. Of these, Theodore served in the Civil War as a member of an Ohio regiment, was captured by the enemy and died in a military prison. Caspar and Anna Gerdeman were prominent and influential members of the community in which they lived and were active in all the good works of that neighborhood. Their bodies are lying at rest in the Grandview cemetery.

Barney Eickholt and his wife, Elizabeth, who was a Nieman, also immigrated from Germany, coming to Putnam county at an early date and settled on a farm near the town of Glandorf, where they made a prominent place for themselves in the estimation of their neighbors and where they spent the rest of their lives, their bodies lying at rest in the Glandorf cemetery. They were the parents of six children, Joseph, Martha, Henry, William, Charles and Bernardina, the latter of whom was the mother of Bernard Gerdeman.

Henry Gerdeman grew to manhood on the paternal farm near Glandorf, receiving his education in the village school. He was united in marriage to Bernardina Eickholt on May 5, 1868, and made his home on a farm of one hundred and ten acres, which he bought in Union township. He cleared this farm and improved it in excellent shape, erecting thereon a good class of buildings and bringing it to a high state of cultivation, becoming known as one of the most prosperous farmers in that neighborhood. During late years, Henry Gerdeman has been retired from the active work of the farm, though still living on the old home place, which is now the home of his son, Henry. His wife died in March, 1915.

To Henry and Bernardina (Eickholdt) Gerdeman were born twelve children, as follow: Charles married Anna Busch and lives in Union township; Andrew, who married Ida Daling and is now deceased; Katherine, who married Henry Hamberg and lives in Jackson township, this county; Barney, the subject of this sketch; John, who married Mary Lang and lives at Delphos, Ohio; William, who married Mary Schroeder and lives in Greensburg township, this county; Elizabeth, who married Henry Verhoff, and lives near Columbus Grove; Amelia, who married William Morman and

lives near Leipsic, this county; Josephine, who is unmarried; Bernadina, who married Joseph Morman and lives in Greensburg township; Henry, who married Emma Merschman and lives on the old home farm, and Mathias, who married Emily Schumacher and lives in Union township.

Barney Gerdeman was reared on the old home farm in Union township and attended the neighborhood school in his youth, making a good account of the time spent in the school room. He assisted his father on the farm, remaining there until his marriage in 1898, when he moved upon a farm of ninety acres in Union township, that had previously been purchased by him, where he has lived ever since. This farm he has improved in fine shape, his buildings being substantial and of a modern type, the place presenting a general air of prosperity which marks its owner as a progressive and up-to-date farmer.

On October 19, 1898, Barney Gerdeman was united in marriage to Anna Brinkman, daughter of Barney and Bernardina (Wehrie) Brinkman, both of whom were born in the Glandorf neighborhood, in this county, their parents having been among the numerous German immigrants who colonized in that part of the county at an early day. For some years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Brinkman lived in Greensburg township, and later moved to a farm in Jackson township, where Mrs. Brinkman is still living, Mr. Brinkman's death having occurred on March 28, 1914. Barney Brinkman was one of the best known men in the county. He had served the public faithfully and well in the capacity of county commissioner, and was deeply interested in local public affairs. He also had served his township as a public officer in various capacities and had always been attentive to the needs of the community. His chief activities were confined to the farm, however, and he had prospered in his labors. To Barney and Bernardina (Wehrie) Brinkman were born thirteen children—Joseph, Anna, Bernadina, Mary, Amelia, Andrew, Frank, Elizabeth, Josephine, Matilda, Elnora, Caroline and Loretta, of whom all are living save Bernadina, Elizabeth and Josephine. The Brinkman family were members of the St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, and took an active part in the affairs of that parish.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerdeman belong to St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, and are active participants in the various beneficences of that parish. They are popular and well liked in the community in which they live, and are regarded as among the leaders in the social and civic life of that section of the county. They have no children. Mr. Gerdeman is not only a good farmer, but is recognized generally as an excellent business man and a man of fine executive ability. He is a director of the Peoples Bank at Kalida,

a director in the fire insurance company at the same place, and has served as a member of the county fair association, in all of which service he has exhibited executive qualities which have gained him the highest confidence of his business associates. Mr. Gerdeman is a Democrat, and takes a good deal of interest in the county's political affairs. He has served as supervisor of public roads in his home township; he has held various other township offices during the past fifteen years, and in other ways has shown his high interest in public affairs.

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### JOHN T. MATHENY.

If asked to present a list of occupations which, because of their very nature, interest and inspire, few there are who would include farming, or if they did, this vocation would not head the list. Here and there, however, are men who, by their attitude toward their work, make of the meanest task a pleasure, and thereby dignify both the doer and the thing they do.

Were you to travel through Putnam county, Ohio, one of the farms which would immediately attract your admiration is that of J. T. Matheny. From the freshly-painted fence and well-kept lawn, in front of the house, to the neatly-stacked woodpile in the rear, there is evidence not only of thrift, but of intelligent personality back of it. And there is, for the owner loves his work.

John T. Matheny was born in Kalida, Putnam county, Ohio, on March 7, 1868. He was the son of Samuel and Adelia (Rogers) Matheny. Samuel Matheny figured prominently in the politics of his county, having acceptably filled a number of township offices under Republican administrations. He came from Virginia to Delaware county, Ohio, where he worked on a farm until the discovery of gold in California fired his ambition, and, in the year of 1849, he, like many others, went to seek his fortune in the West. He traveled by way of the Isthmus of Panama. For four years, he met with success, as a miner, but finally, home called louder than fortune, and he dropped his pick to follow the plow back in the county he had left. The return journey also was made by way of Panama. Soon after his return to Ohio, he married Adelia Rogers, removed to Kalida, Ohio, and became interested in buying and shipping stock, and farming. He bought and developed a large tract of land near Kalida. He was a faithful member of the Methodist church. After the death of Samuel Matheny, which took place on the farm, his widow continued to live there with her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. John T. Matheny, until her death.

John T. Matheny had three sisters and one brother. They were Eva, Clara, Emma and Howard. Of these, Clara married H. M. Summers, a real estate dealer living in Ottawa, and they have five children; Emma married a hardware merchant, named Basil Sparling, and they live in Monroe, Michigan, and they have three children. Going back another generation, we find that Mr. Matheny's grandparents on the father's side were born and died in Virginia, and that their children were James, William, Robert, Samuel and Jane. The children of the maternal grandparents were John, Howard, Marion, Mary, Sinah, Emma and Adelia.

John T. Matheny's school days were interspersed with wholesome farm work, yet it seems he did not allow his tasks to crush him ambition. He attended school in Kalida, and when still a young man, married Nettie Varner, on December 10, 1902, daughter of W. J. and Annie Varner. Mr. Matheny's wife also came from a substantial old family of pioneers whose ambition brought them from Virginia early enough to travel on horseback, for there was no other mode of transportation. The grandfather on the paternal side took advantage of conditions by trading with the Indians who lived within the vicinity of the settlement.

W. J. Varner, father of Mrs. Matheny, is mentioned elsewhere in this volume. He was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, in 1848, and married Annie Simon, of that township, whose parents, also, were early settlers and prominent in the county. That Mr. Varner was public-spirited is shown from the fact that he was treasurer of the township, and for ten years was a member of the county board of agriculture.

For six years after his marriage, Mr. Matheny gave all of his attention to farming. He then moved to the old W. J. Varner homestead in Greensburg township, Putnam county, where he still resides. This is a splendid farm of one hundred acres. The children born to John T. Matheny and wife are: Nelson Varner, born on September 8, 1903; Howard Samuel, born on September 4, 1909; John Wilson, born on November 18, 1912. The two elder boys are attending school.

John T. Matheny has been unusually successful in raising Jersey cattle and Duroc hogs, but, not content with present efforts, he is preparing to make extensive improvements on his property. Like his father, he is a Republican, and has held public office, having served on the county council and as corporation clerk while living in Kalida. Everybody knows the Mathenys, and everybody likes them. As members of the Methodist church they have many friends, and are among those whom we call the leaders in the community in which they live. Mr. Matheny is a Free and Accepted Mason. He has

always kept in close touch with public affairs. So genial and wholesome are John T. Matheny and wife that their home is a social center. It has never been bound by narrow interests. In all of his activities, Mr. Matheny is assisted by his able and charming wife.

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### ROBERT WILFORD DOWNING.

Robert Wilford Downing was born on October 6, 1870, in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, on the old Downing homestead. He is the son of Robert and Rachel (Hooper) Downing, the former of whom was born three miles east of Canton, in Stark county, Ohio, June 15, 1821, and who died on November 21, 1874, at the age of fifty-three years. He was the son of Adam and Sarah (McLothen) Downing, who were natives of Pennsylvania, and who settled first in Stark county, Ohio. They came to Allen county in 1837, where they entered a section of land near Rockport. Here they spent the remainder of their lives. Robert Downing, the father of Robert Wilford, grew up on this Allen county farm. He came to Putnam county in 1863, and located in Sugar Creek township, where he bought two hundred and forty acres of land. He followed general farming until his death. He received his early education in Stark county, leaving that county at the age of sixteen. He was married in Allen county, September 3, 1857, to Rachel Hooper, who was born on October 10, 1833, in Franklin county, Ohio. She was the daughter of Philip and Rachel (Stevenson) Hooper, the former of whom was a native of Scotland and who came to America, settling first in Virginia. Later, he moved to Franklin county, Ohio. He served in the Indian War. He was married in Maryland to Rachel Stevenson, whose mother was a native of Germany and who first settled in Maryland and later moved to Franklin county, Ohio. Philip Hooper lived in Franklin county, Ohio, for several years, when he migrated to Putnam county in 1839, settling about two miles south of Columbus Grove in what is now Allen county. Here he spent the remainder of his life. Philip and Rachel Hooper had thirteen children, all of whom are now deceased except Philip, Jr., a brother of Robert Wilford Downing's mother. Mrs. Rachel Downing was next to the youngest child. She died on September 21, 1907. Robert and Rachel Downing had three children, Albert, born on April 17, 1860, and died on November 7, 1897; John M., born on June 15, 1862, and died on July 6, 1902, and Robert Wilford, the subject of this sketch.

Robert Wilford Downing was born on the old homestead farm of his father, where he now resides. Here he spent his childhood and youth and here he grew to manhood. He attended the district schools and since leaving school has followed farming. When nearly thirty years of age, Mr. Downing was married on September 23, 1900, to Anna E. Shusser, the daughter of William and Nancy (Garner) Shusser. Mrs. Downing was born on September 27, 1870, in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county. After his marriage, Mr. Downing continued farming on the old home place. His farm of one hundred and sixty acres joins the town of Vaughnsville on the northwest and is on the Kalida road. His residence commands a fine view of Sugar creek and the surrounding country. Mr. Downing has remodeled his residence, which is the house where he was born, is built on generous lines and bespeaks the comfort and culture of its occupants. Mr. Downing built a large and commodious barn in 1912, and from time to time has added other buildings as occasion demanded. He now has one of the most completely-equipped farms in Putnam county. Mr. Downing is a good judge of live stock and raises thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle.

Robert Downing, the father of Robert W., was a member of the radical wing of the United Brethren church. He was township treasurer for two terms and was a staunch and active supporter of the Republican party. Mr. Downing's great-grandfather on his maternal side, John Stevenson, whose father was a native of Germany, was a native of Maryland and a slaveholder. He never left the state of Maryland and was known as "Granddad John." Both great-grandparents on the Hooper and Stevenson sides of Mr. Downing's family were Revolutionary soldiers, and added much to the credit of their family by valiance and bravery. Both were slaveholders. Philip Hooper, the grandfather of Mr. Downing, died on the old Hooper homestead south of Columbus Grove, about 1844. His wife, the grandmother of Mr. Downing, lived to be ninety-three years of age and died in Columbus Grove about 1887.

Mrs. Downing's father, William Slusser, answered the call for volunteers in the War of 1861 and enlisted in the One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He served for three years, when he was mustered out of service.

Mrs. Downing is a member of the Christian church. Mr. Downing is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 711, at Vaughnsville. He is a Republican in politics and has been trustee of Sugar Creek township for three terms. In addition to other activities, he was nominated by his party during the last election, for county commissioner.

## JOSEPH WEBSTER NEILL.

Joseph Webster Neill, one of the best-known agriculturists of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, is a native born son of this county, having first seen the light of day on his father's farm on November 16, 1859. He is a son of Seth W. and Mary A. (Shank) Neill, the former born in Hagerstown, Maryland, and the latter a native of this county. Seth W. was a son of John and Anna (Crow) Neill, who, in their youth, were among the earlier settlers of this county. They became acquainted during the early pioneer days and were married, locating on a farm in section 11 of Greensburg township, where they passed through the experiences common to pioneers in a new country. They were the parents of seven children, namely: Webster, J. T., Martin, William A., Susan, Samantha and Elizabeth. John Neill died on March 27, 1863, at the age of fifty-eight years. His wife had preceded him into the Great Beyond by a few days only, her death having occurred on March 8, 1863, when in the forty-ninth year of her age. Seth W. Neill secured such education as the schools of that time afforded, being, however, rather limited in their scope, but he received from his careful father the best training in the art of successful husbandry. He remained with his father for a time after his marriage, on April 19, 1857, to Mary A. Shank, a daughter of Jonas and Fanny Shank. They were among the early settlers of this county, having come here from their native home in Maryland. Their children were Susan, Elizabeth, Saphronica, Mary, Joseph, Samuel, Christian, John and Jonas. After a few months spent in his parental home, Seth W. Neill took his bride to the eighty-acre farm, which he had secured in section 11 of Greensburg township, where he made his home for the balance of his life. It was there the children of the family were born and reared. Beside Joseph Webster Neill, who was the second child of the family in order of birth, there were: John Allison, born on March 1, 1858; Samuel Morton, born on December 28, 1861, and died on September 23 of the following year, while still a small child and while the father of the family was at the front during the Civil War. Seth Edwin, born on January 25, 1864; Saphronica Ann, born on May 28, 1866; Mary Emma, born on December 1, 1868, the latter now deceased; Cora Edith, born on March 1, 1871, and Jonas Sheldon, an infant, who died at birth, was born on January 16, 1874; William Orlan, born on April 21, 1875, and Oscar Delos, the youngest of the family, born on May 17, 1878.

On August 11, 1862, when a young man of twenty-six years, and with a wife and three small children, Seth W. Neill so strongly felt the call of his

country in her time of need, that he laid aside his personal interests and donned a suit of blue as a private in Company I, Ninety-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He entered service under Captain Hawkey and scarcely more than a month after his enlistment, on September 21 following, he was sent to the United States military hospital at Covington, Kentucky, where he remained for over a month. On October 29 he was ordered home for a rest and entered the service again within a short time. However, he had become so disabled, physically, owing to the illness contracted in the service, that he was found to be unfit for duty and was sent home. He was honorably discharged and later pensioned. He spent the balance of his life on his farm, and there passed away on September 8, 1899. His widow survived for a number of years, her life on earth ending on November 18, 1914. Both Seth W. Neill and wife were faithful members of the Christian church, and in the tenets of that faith they reared their family.

When a lad Joseph Webster Neill attended the district schools near his home and assisted his father during vacation periods. After leaving school, he farmed by renting fields, for a few years before marriage. On December 31, 1884, he was united in marriage with Mary E. Timmons, a native of this county and a daughter of Joshua and Catherine Timmons. Joseph Neill and his bride took up their residence in section 11, of Greensburg township, on a farm adjoining that formerly occupied by his father, where they have continued to since make their home. This farm consists of one hundred and fifty-five acres and is in every respect well kept. The residence and all buildings are in a good state of repair, and everything about the place is neat and orderly, bespeaking the well-regulated mind and business ability of its owner.

Joshua Timmons, father of Joseph Neill's wife, was born in Piqua county, this state, and his wife was a native of Pennsylvania. They met and were married in this county and after marriage settled on a farm in Perry township. To them was born a family of twelve children, as follow: Alice, John, Daniel, Samuel, Peter, Mary, Helena, Lucy, Louisa, Laura, Emma and Nancy.

Joseph Webster and Mary E. (Timmons) Neill are the parents of four children, Louis Alfred, born on December 8, 1885; Lottie Alice, born on March 23, 1889; Robert Homer, born on June 16, 1891, and Ora Joseph, born on January 18, 1894. Lottie Alice is the wife of Leonard McEldery, a farmer of Pleasant township, this county, and is the mother of one child, Margaret Marie; Robert Homer attended the township schools when a boy, and later, securing a higher education, taught school for three terms, when he took a course in the business college at Ottawa and later studied at the agricultural college at Ada; Ora Joseph, the youngest of the family, remains



with the father, assisting him in the work of the home place; Louis Alfred, the eldest of the family, was united in marriage, on March 20, 1912, to Miss Bessie Wirth, a daughter of George and Mary Ann Wirth, both natives of this county. George Wirth is a son of Samuel and Mary Magdalena Wirth, both of whom were natives of Germany, and upon emigrating to this country, came directly to this county, where they passed the remainder of their lives. George Wirth received his education in the public schools of this county and worked with his father on the home farm. On December 13, 1885, he was united in marriage to Mary Ann Guyton, and to their union were born six children, as follows: Matilda, Mary, deceased; Frank, Charles, Bessie, wife of Louis Alfred Neill, and Alta. After marriage, George Wirth and wife moved to the farm of one hundred and sixty acres where they lived for many years and where his widow still resides. He is now deceased. To Louis Alfred Neill and wife have been born two children, Thelma, born on December 30, 1911, and Catherine Jane, born on January 27, 1913. The Neill family are well known through this section and both father and sons are regarded as men of industry and integrity and among the most substantial citizens of the community.

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#### FRANK ERHART.

One of the popular and well-known citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, is Frank Erhart, whose reputation for unfailing cheerfulness and optimism, sincere friendliness and whole-souled generosity is founded on fact and most justly deserved. Mr. Erhart won many friends when twice candidate for sheriff on the Democratic ticket, but unfortunately failed of election. He has at different times served as county assessor, justice of the peace and township ditch commissioner, and for twelve years was a member of the school board. He is engaged in farming in Greensburg township, where the family is well known.

Frank Erhart was born in Ottawa township, this county, on March 18, 1866, being a child of Henry and Anna Bernadina (Barlager) Erhart, both natives of this county, born of German parentage. Henry Erhart was a son of Barney and Elizabeth Erhart, the other children of the family being Andrew, Mary, Elizabeth, Rosa, Anna and John. The parents left their native land of Germany shortly after marriage, coming direct to this county, where they had friends. They settled on a farm three miles west

of Ottawa, this county, where they lived for the balance of their lives and where their children were born and reared. Anna Bernadina Barlager, mother of Frank Erhart, was the child of Henry and Gertrude Barlager, both born in the German Empire. They emigrated to America early in their married life and located in this county on a farm some two miles west of Glandorf, where all their children were born and reared, and where they passed the remainder of their days. They had five children, namely: Katherine, Henry, Elizabeth, Bernadina and Joseph. They were devout members of the Catholic church and in that faith their family was reared.

Henry Erhart, father of Frank, passed his boyhood days on his father's farm, attending the district schools whenever possible. He early showed an aptitude for agricultural work and immediately after his marriage on July 5, 1865, he took his bride to the eighty-acre farm, where he toiled and passed the remainder of his life. His death occurred in March, 1914. His widow still resides on the farm, which she operates. In spite of her advanced years, she is in possession of a mental alertness and physical strength that would do credit to a woman scarce half her age. She is the mother of seven children, Frank, Caroline, William, Mollie, Elizabeth, Mary and Frances. The family are communicants of the Roman Catholic church.

When a youth, Frank Erhart secured such education as the district schools of his home locality afforded and assisted his father in the work of the farm home. He was united in marriage on September 20, 1888, to Catherine Edelbrock, daughter of Henry and Theresa Edelbrock, and soon after their marriage the young couple removed for residence to Jackson township, this county. For twenty-six years they remained on the farm, which had been their original home and, in March of 1914, they removed to their present home in Greensburg township. This farm consists of one hundred and twenty acres, and Mr. Erhart devotes his time to general farming and the raising of live stock.

Henry Edelbrock, father of Mrs. Erhart, was a native of Germany, who came to this country when a young man and, for many years, was a well-known farmer of this county. His death occurred in 1906. His wife was Theresa Siebeneck, and she survived her husband several years, her death occurring in 1913. She was a native of this county, born of German parentage, and was the mother of eight children, Frank, William, Mary, Catherine, John, Joseph, Benjamin and Minnie, the entire family being communicants of the Roman Catholic church.

To Frank Erhart and wife were born six children, as follow: Laura,

born on July 12, 1889, who is the wife of August Myers of Glandorf, this county, and is the mother of three children; Flora, born on April 26, 1891, is a graduate of Ottawa business college; Edna, born on August 16, 1899, attends the Glandorf high school; Benjamin, born on February 9, 1901, is deceased, as is also Harry, born on November 15, 1903, and Minnie, born on March 8, 1904, is still in the grades. The various members of the family are prominent in the life of their community, making themselves agreeable to both friend and stranger alike. All are communicants of the Roman Catholic church.

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### JOHN B. STEPHENS.

One of the conspicuous names on the list of Putnam county agriculturists is that of John B. Stephens, who operates a splendid farm in Sugar Creek township, and who is a gentleman of high standing, to whom has not been denied a full measure of success. Long recognized as a factor of importance in connection with the farming and stock-raising industries here, he is prominently identified with the material growth and prosperity of this part of the state, his life having been closely interwoven with the history of the county where he has been content to live and follow his vocation.

John B. Stephens was born in Union township on January 26, 1868, and is a son of Marion and Margaret (Nonemaker) Stephens. Marion Stephens is a native of the old Buckeye state, having been born in Union county on July 11, 1843, and there spent his boyhood days and received his early education. His parents dying when he was but a child, he was reared by relatives, and during his young manhood was employed at farm labor. At the outbreak of the Civil War Marion Stephens enlisted as a private in the Fifty-fourth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which command was attached to the Army of the Tennessee. Mr. Stephens was a participant in many of the most hotly-contested battles of that great struggle, including many campaigns and the historic march of Sherman to the sea. After the war Mr. Stephens returned to Union county, where, shortly afterward, he married Margaret Nonemaker, who was born in Fairfield county about 1845, a daughter of John Nonemaker and wife, both of whom were natives of Germany and who settled in Fairfield county, Ohio. Later they moved to Union county, settling near Plain City, and there remained the rest of their lives. Their surviving children were seven in number, namely: Jacob, who was killed in the service during the Civil War; Samuel, Catherine, Lucinda,

Martha, Margaret and Nancy. Margaret, who married Marion Stephens, died in July, 1875, when her son, the subject of this sketch, was seven years old. To Marion and Margaret (Nonemaker) Stephens there were born three children, Martha, John B. and Winnifred, the deceased widow of Edward Lippencott.

Some time after the death of his first wife Marion Stephens was married to Elizabeth Best, of Putnam county, the daughter of George and Anna Best. To this union were born six children, three of whom survived them, Joseph, George and Grover. After his first marriage Marion Stephens remained in Union county for some time and then moved to Putnam county, where he remained but two years. During this time John B. Stephens was born. The family then moved to Madison county, where the wife and mother died. The father returned to Putnam county in 1879, locating on a farm which he had purchased in Sugar Creek township, in partnership with Jacob Miller, the tract comprising one hundred and sixty acres, located one mile northeast of Vaughnsville. Here he remained until 1905, when he moved to the state of Michigan, but in 1912 returned to Putnam county. He now lives in Kalida.

John B. Stephens was about eleven years old when his father returned to Sugar Creek township, where he remained until attaining maturity. His education was received in the common schools of Vaughnsville, and his early years were spent in work on the old home farm. After his marriage in 1893 he lived for a while at his wife's home, and in the following year moved to the Joseph Garner farm, on which he resided for two years. He then returned to his mother-in-law's home place of eighty acres, and there he has since continued to reside, Mr. Stephens being engaged in the operation and management of the farm. He is a progressive and up-to-date farmer, giving attention to the most advanced ideas relative to agriculture, and has achieved a noteworthy success in this enterprise.

John B. Stephens was united in marriage on October 12, 1893, with Olive Vandermark, who was born in Putnam county, March 11, 1872, the daughter of William and Mary Jane (Mayberry) Vandemark. William Vandemark was born in Putnam county on June 22, 1830, and met his death by the hands of a bank robber at Columbus Grove, his death occurring on August 9, 1891. Mary Jane (Mayberry) Vandemark was born in Ross county on December 16, 1833, being the eldest daughter of James and May Mayberry. To William and Mary Vandemark were born the following children: Malinda on April 4, 1856, died on August 4, 1856; James, February 27, 1858, died on January 21, 1894; John M., April 17, 1861, died on May 26,

1864; Serilda, January 5, 1864, died on June 14, 1864; Charles E., September 13, 1866; Margaret L., July 7, 1869, died in infancy; Luella died in infancy on April 2, 1870; Olive, Mrs. Stephens, March 11, 1872; Lawrence, May 1, 1875. Mary Jane Mayberry had been married prior to her union with Mr. Vandemark, the first husband, Aaron Jones, was born on December 20, 1825, their marriage occurring on August 22, 1851. William Vandemark was one of nine children, Agnes, Jeremiah, Elizabeth, Esther, Nancy Ann, Elvira, William and a twin sister, Mary Jane, and Daniel, all of whom are deceased. To John B. Stephens and wife have been born four children, William, Velma, Lawrence and Ethel.

Mr. Stephens is a Democrat, and has taken a commendable interest in local and public affairs, having served efficiently as a member of the township school board. He is affiliated with the Christian church, of which he is a trustee, and of which his wife is also a member. The qualities which have made Mr. Stephens one of the prominent and successful men of Sugar Creek township have also brought him the esteem of his fellow-citizens, for his career has been one of well-directed energy, strong determination and honorable methods.

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#### FRANCIS M. RIMER.

Not long ago there was a period from the middle of November to the first of March when very little work was done on the farm. The business man cannot afford a four or five months' vacation nor can the farmer afford it. The business man at the head of any enterprise hardly dares to quit work for two weeks. Not that the farmer does not work hard enough, but his work is poorly planned if he has nothing that he can do during a third of each year. It were far better for the farmer to quit work at noon on Saturday every week in the year than to work long hours during the spring and summer season and cease work altogether during the winter months. The farmer who loves his work and is bent on attacking its problems systematically will not care to pass long periods in absolute idleness. He will find something possible to do no matter how bad the weather may be, and he will work where he may be comfortable. He will have carefully planned his work for the next season, will have attended carefully to the feeding of his stock, the long evenings he will have spent reading the literature of the farm and in studying farm problems. This is the typical life of the present-day progressive farmer, and one of the men who falls in this class is Francis M. Rimer, of Sugar Creek township. Mr. Rimer is a man of more than average intelligence.

He is a man who has kept abreast of the times with the application of the latest methods, and has kept informed with regard to the latest developments in agriculture, which is evidenced by the fact that he employs all of the latest devices in his farm work.

Francis M. Rimer was born on July 19, 1857, in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Rhodes) Rimer. Jacob Rimer was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on January 29, 1815. He was the son of Daniel and Catherine (Vandemark) Rimer. Daniel Rimer was a native of Pennsylvania and was born near Rimersburg. He was of German parentage and came to Fairfield county, Ohio, from Pennsylvania, about 1812. Here he remained until 1832, when his son Jacob, the father of Francis M., was seventeen years of age. In this year he located in Union township, Putnam county, where he entered land from the government south of Kalida. Here he spent the remainder of his active life and spent his declining years with his son, Jacob, in Sugar Creek township, where he died on July 5, 1857. His wife surviving him about seventeen years, died in 1874.

Jacob Rimer was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, where he spent his childhood and received his early education. When sixteen years of age, in 1831, he came to Putnam county, Ohio, one year ahead of his parents. After they settled in Union township he remained with them until his marriage on March 1, 1838, at which time he was twenty-three years of age, and when he settled on a farm of eighty acres in section 8 of Sugar Creek township. This land was covered with virgin timber and partly with water. Jacob Rimer built a one-roomed log cabin and a barn and proceeded to clear his land, in which latter undertaking he nearly succeeded during his lifetime. A few years later he built a frame house adjoining the log cabin. This house was of five rooms and quite pretentious for those times. In later years he built a more commodious residence, which is still in use today. Jacob Rimer's wife, Elizabeth Rhodes, was born in Franklin county, Ohio, on July 21, 1816. She was the daughter of Peter and Catherine (Hoffman) Rhodes, and came to Putnam county with her parents when sixteen years of age, in 1831, who settled on the west bank of Hog creek, just below Rimer. Elizabeth here grew to womanhood and was married to Jacob Rimer on March 1, 1838, at the age of twenty-two. Jacob Rimer's parents had five children, three sons and two daughters, Eliza, Jacob, Jeremiah, Daniel and Parmelia, all of whom are deceased. Peter and Catherine Rhodes had seven children, two daughters and five sons. Jacob and Elizabeth Rimer had nine children, seven sons and two daughters, Joseph, born on December 18, 1838, and died on December 21

of the same year; George W., February 5, 1840, and was killed in the Civil War on December 11, 1863; Daniel P., January 8, 1842; Elizabeth, October 23, 1843; James W., March 26, 1846, and died on December 25, 1907; Mary L., May 30, 1848; Leazure, August 21, 1851; Lewis H., September 7, 1853; Francis M., July 19, 1857. Daniel P. was also a soldier in the Civil War.

Jacob Rimer spent a most active and useful life and died on the old homestead, which was largely the work of his hands, in December, 1901. He was a Democrat and an active member of the Baptist church. He was township trustee for several terms, was well known and highly respected and was a man of high ideals and sterling integrity. His wife preceded him to the grave, having departed this life on December 22, 1893. Francis M. Rimer was born on the old homestead of his father and here spent his childhood. He attended the local district school, known as Woods College. Here he grew to manhood and helped his father on the old home farm until he was twenty-eight years of age, when he married.

Francis Rimer was married on December 10, 1885, to Margaret Elizabeth Oard, who was born in Sugar Creek township, Allen county, on January 28, 1866. She was the daughter of Noah and Margaret (Oglevie) Oard. Both of them died when Mrs. Rimer was only fourteen years of age. Noah Oard was born in Allen county in 1824 and was the son of Peter and Anna Oard, the former a native of Pennsylvania. Margaret Oglevie was the daughter of parents who came from Virginia. Her father was a native of Scotland and came to Virginia when nine years of age, settling in Putnam county in pioneer times two miles north of Vaughnsville. To Noah and Margaret Oard, fifteen children were born, fourteen of whom grew to maturity. They were: James Henry, who died in 1912; Mary Jane, deceased; Thomas Clinton; David R. and Peter L., twins; Anna C., deceased; John A.; Amanda O.; Noah O.; Margaret E., the wife of Mr. Rimer; Cynthia A.; Viola, who died at the age of five years; Eva; Lottie and an infant who died at birth.

After his marriage Francis Rimer settled on a part of his father's farm of sixty-one acres, where he built a twelve-room residence and a large barn and other buildings. To his original farm Mr. Rimer has added twelve acres, making seventy-three acres in all. He has always done general farming.

Francis M. and Margaret E. (Oard) Rimer have had seven children: Lenore, born on January 20, 1889; Ralph, February 25, 1891; Helen, May 5, 1894; Russell, September 26, 1897; Louis Richard, July 24, 1899; Margaret, September 24, 1905, and Elizabeth, October 31, 1907. Lenore, who was graduated from the Vaughnsville high school, attended the Lebanon

Normal School, and is now teaching in Oregon. Ralph, who is a graduate of the Vaughnsville high school and the Lima Business College, is also teaching in Oregon. Helen, also a graduate of the Vaughnsville high school, took the normal course at Ohio Northern University and a special normal course at Ottawa. Russell is also a graduate of the Vaughnsville high school. Louis Richard is now a student in the Vaughnsville high school.

Francis Rimer attends the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mrs. Rimer is a member. Mr. Rimer is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge, No. 711, at Vaughnsville. He is a Democrat, having served as school director, township supervisor and township trustee. Francis M. Rimer is well known in Putnam county and highly respected as an up-to-date, progressive and intelligent farmer.

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### HERMAN HOLTKAMP.

There are few public officials, of the federal class, in Putnam county who are better known or more deservedly popular in the community in which they reside than the genial postmaster at Kalida, to a brief sketch of whose interesting career the biographer, with pleasure, calls the attention of the reader at this point. Though of foreign birth and a resident of this county a matter of less than three decades, Postmaster Holtkamp has so thoroughly absorbed the spirit of American institutions and has so completely familiarized himself with American manners and customs that there is no more thorough American than he, nor none more sincerely devoted to the welfare of his adopted country. One of the best known merchants in the county, he for years having been engaged in the hardware business at Kalida, Mr. Holtkamp also has the interests of the county at large very deeply at heart, and none is more prompt in furthering any movement having the commonwealth's best development in view than is he. Not only that, but his fine musical education and taste make him popular in those circles which contribute in largest measure to the cultural development of the communal life, and he, therefore, may properly be looked upon as one of the most valuable citizens of this county. No review of the history of this section would be complete without proper mention of his services and activities since coming to this county, and it is with pleasure that the biographer presents here a brief and modest sketch of the career of this excellent citizen.

Herman Holtkamp was born in the Province of Westphalia, Germany,





HERMAN HOLTKAMP.



December 4, 1856, the only son of Everhard and Gertrude (Asholt) Holtkamp, farming people, whose lives were spent on their farm near the town of Vorhelm, in Westphalia, and to whom also were born two daughters, Christine and Anna, the former of whom is dead and the latter of whom still lives in Germany, the parents both being dead.

Herman Holtkamp received his early education under the admirable scholastic system of his native province and early in life was apprenticed to a wood carver, acquiring a most skillful proficiency in this difficult and important trade. For a time after completing his apprenticeship he followed this trade in Germany, and then decided to seek an extension of his fortunes on this side of the Atlantic. With that end in view, he came to America in 1887, landing at New York, from whence he came direct to Putnam county, locating in the town of Kalida, where he has ever since made his home. Upon arriving at Kalida he opened a wagon and wood-working shop, which he operated for twenty-two years, becoming in that time one of the best known and most successful artisans of that class in the county. At the end of that time he formed a partnership with James Tennison, the two buying the hardware store of Fanger & Recker, in Kalida. Later, Mr. Tennison sold his interest in this store to John W. Fortman, since which time the house has been doing business under the firm style of Holtkamp & Fortman, and has been quite successful, doing a general and quite extensive business in hardware, farming implements, etc., also taking contracts for tin work, roofing and the like. In addition to his extensive business interests, Mr. Holtkamp is deeply concerned in matters of public improvement, and is regarded as one of the leaders in all movements having to do with the best development of the interests of his home community. For three years he served, most acceptably, as township treasurer of Union township, and for a like period of service was clerk of the school board, in which latter capacity his deep interest in educational and cultural matters proved of large value to the community.

Herman Holtkamp was united in marriage in 1890 to Mary Siefker, the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Tenwalde) Siefker, a prominent family in Union township. Mrs. Holtkamp is one of a family of seven children, the others being Henry, John, Elizabeth, Anna, Joseph and Catherine, of whom Henry, Elizabeth and Anna are now deceased.

To the union of Herman and Mary (Siefker) Holtkamp nine children have been born, as follow: Henry (deceased), born on August 28, 1891; Edward, born on December 7, 1892; Henry, born on February 7, 1894;

Pauline, born on December 18, 1895; Emma (deceased), born on October 4, 1897; Clara, born on August 18, 1900; Louise (deceased), born on May 15, 1902; Irene, born on September 23, 1904, and Alice, born on March 29, 1906.

Mr. and Mrs. Holtkamp are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida and are earnestly devoted to the sacred interests of that parish, in the various beneficences of which they are active participants. For twenty-seven years Mr. Holtkamp has served as organist and choir director in St. Michael's church, his service in this connection ever having proved acceptable to the parish, in which there is no more popular member than he.

In public affairs Mr. Holtkamp always has taken a deep interest and has given to the politics of the county a degree of intelligent attention which has lent much weight to his counsels in the deliberations of the party managers. He was appointed postmaster at Kalida in June, 1914, by the President, entering upon the duties of this important office in the next month, and is giving the public most excellent service through that office. He has a splendid reputation throughout that part of the county and is very properly regarded as one of the leading men of affairs.

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### JAMES H. TEEGARDIN.

The farmer's greatest economic interest is in increased profit. Involved in this interest, which is potent to the farmer's prosperity, is the problem of distribution. The problem of distribution is no other than that of market. If production on the farm is increased, improved market facilities to safeguard the farmer's economic interest in greater profits must eliminate, to some extent, the present waste in distribution. The present and future efforts to avoid this waste must compensate the farmer for raising larger crops, which otherwise would mean only that he would receive the same number of dollars for a greater number of bushels. The two most important economic problems of agriculture are greater production and improved market facilities. Experience seems to prove that co-operation is the keynote to a better system of distribution between producer and consumer and, in brief, to the improvement of market facilities. James H. Teegardin, one of the successful and well-known farmers of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, is a man who has made a close study of every phase of modern farming. No man has done more than he to emphasize the needs of better

markets in connection with the present movement to improve the productions of farm products.

James H. Teegardin was born on March 19, 1866, in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Joseph and Sarah (Mayberry) Teegardin. Joseph Teegardin was born in Sugar Creek township, Allen county, Ohio, on March 19, 1840, and died in Pleasant township, Putnam county, on March 10, 1892. He was the son of Henry and Rachel (Decker) Teegardin. Henry Teegardin was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, three miles from Groveport, and came to Sugar Creek township, Allen county, in 1830. He was the son of William Teegardin, who was a native of Pennsylvania and who settled in Fairfield county, where he spent the remainder of his life on the original Teegardin homestead. He died at the age of about eighty-two years. It was William Teegardin who entered the land in Sugar Creek township, Allen county, from the government, which has been turned over to several successive generations of his descendants. As in the past, this property was given to his sons, though he himself had never moved to Allen county, always remaining in Fairfield county. He had ten children, four daughters and six sons, one of whom was Henry, the grandfather of James H.

Henry Teegardin settled on one of the farms of one hundred and sixty acres which was entered by his father, where he lived and died. He passed through all of the pioneer experiences of the men of his generation, was a very industrious farmer and, for his time, was considered very prosperous. He died at about the age of fifty years of pneumonia. Henry and Rachel Teegardin had nine children, Mary, who was familiarly known as "Polly"; Elizabeth, Joseph, the father of James H.; Peter, John, William, Daniel and a son and a daughter, who died in childhood. Rachel Teegardin survived her husband many years and was married again to James Mayberry. She died at the advanced age of eighty-two years, in February, 1899. Joseph Teegardin, who was the eldest son, took charge of the old homestead in Allen county after his father's death. It was on this old place that he spent his childhood and youth at the time he attended the typical log cabin school. At the age of twenty-three, on May 23, 1863, he was married to Sarah Elizabeth Mayberry, who was born in Pleasant township, Putnam county, on May 13, 1843, and who was the daughter of James and Mary (Jamison) Mayberry. It was James Mayberry who, after his first wife's death, married Rachel Teegardin. Joseph and Sarah Teegardin, the parents of James H. Teegardin, were, therefore, step brother and sister, as well as husband and wife.

After Joseph Teegardin's marriage he settled in the southeast corner of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, on eighty acres of land belonging to

his father, which farm he purchased after the latter's death from the remainder of the heirs. In about nine years, or in 1870, he sold this farm and moved to Columbus Grove, where he lived for nine years. He then moved to a small farm two and one-half miles north of Columbus Grove, where he lived the remainder of his life, dying on March 10, 1892. Although not a member of any church, he died in the Christian faith. He was ill about seven years prior to his death. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and was a Democrat. Joseph and Sarah (Mayberry) Teegardin had five children, Emma, James H., the subject of this sketch; William A., Thomas M. and Alice, who died in infancy. Mrs. Joseph Teegardin still lives and resides with her grandchild, Mrs. May Darbyshire, of Lima, Ohio.

James H. Teegardin spent his early childhood on his father's farm in Sugar Creek township. His boyhood was spent in Columbus Grove and later on the farm north of Columbus Grove. Here he attended the public schools and after finishing school helped his father on the farm. At the age of sixteen he started in life for himself and began working for neighboring farmers, which he continued to do until he became twenty years of age, when he married.

James H. Teegardin was married on April 14, 1886, to Etta Sherman, who was born in Putnam county in September, 1870, and who is the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Utter) Sherman. To this union were born two children, Bessie, who died at the age of six weeks, and Nellie, who died at the age of four. Mrs. Etta Teegardin died in March, 1897, and after her death Mr. Teegardin was married a second time, on April 14, 1898, to Mrs. Jane (Myers) Vandemark, the widow of James M. Vandemark. Mrs. Teegardin had five children by her first marriage, Clarence, Emmet, Clara, Vena, who died at the age of two years, and Alva J. All four of these children are living and are married. Mrs. Teegardin is the daughter of James and Deborah (McDale) Myers, the former of whom was born in Pleasant township, Putnam county, on September 4, 1830, and died in Union township in February, 1912, at the age of eighty-two years. His wife, Deborah McDale, was born on June 29, 1835, in Pleasant township and is still living.

After Mr. Teegardin's first marriage he rented a farm in Pleasant township for two years. During the following ten years he was engaged in factory work at Columbus Grove and Carey, Ohio. Later and after his second marriage he took up his residence on the James Vandemark farm, where he has resided ever since.

James H. and Jane (Myers) Teegardin have had two children, Lewis

W., born on May 2, 1899, and Joseph C., May 30, 1903. After Mr. Teegardin's second marriage he negotiated with the heirs of the James Vandemark estate and purchased their interest in the farm, which he now owns. His farm consists of one hundred and forty-six acres and is located two and one-half miles northwest of Vaughnsville. His land is in a fine state of cultivation, is well improved and no better farm can be found anywhere. Mr. Teegardin had the misfortune, on November 23, 1914, to lose a fine barn that had just been erected and which was destroyed by fire. He has since duplicated this structure with a barn which is modern to the smallest detail. He has a comfortable residence and neatly and well-kept outbuildings. Mr. Teegardin has always done general farming and has paid considerable attention to the Ohio Improved Chester hogs and keeps only thoroughbreds. He also raises Shorthorn cattle for dairy and beef purposes.

James H. Teegardin and wife are members of the Ottawa River Christian church, while Mr. Teegardin is a member of Vaughnsville Lodge, No. 711, Knights of Pythias. He has passed all of the chairs in his local lodge except one. Mr. Teegardin is a Democrat, although he has never been particularly active. He is a progressive farmer of Sugar Creek township, clean-cut and favorably known.

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#### CHARLES R. SMITH.

The farmers' interest in road-building is universally recognized. Good roads furnish easy access to market and reduce the wear of his vehicles and machinery. They are civilizing agents that open up to him the outside world, even more than railroads or trolley lines. Moreover, the farmer is interested, not so much in gigantic expenditures for road-building, which amount to six hundred million dollars each year, but in getting the worth of his money invested in this enterprise. He has a right to know whether the forty-four million dollars, expended in state aid of road-building in 1914, was economically used. He ought to know enough about making roads to find the answer for himself. One of the prominent farmers of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, who is extremely interested in road-building and in markets, is Charles R. Smith.

Charles R. Smith was born on June 28, 1863, in Allen county, Ohio. He is the son of Benjamin O. and Margaret A. (Hines) Smith. Benjamin Smith was born in Culpeper county, Virginia, in October, 1832, and was the

son of James and Mary (Stover) Smith. James Smith was born in Culpepper county, Virginia, in 1810, and died in 1893. He was a farmer in Virginia, where he grew to manhood and was married. He came to Ohio, overland, in a covered wagon, arriving in Vaughnsville on January 1, 1837. He then entered land from the government in section 22, about two miles northeast of Vaughnsville. He remained in Vaughnsville until he had built a cabin and then moved to his new-found home. He proceeded to clear his land and succeeded in getting about fifty acres in cultivation. He spent the remainder of his life on the old homestead, where his wife died in April, 1888, he surviving her by five years. They had eleven children, six sons and five daughters, of whom Charles R. Smith's father, Benjamin O. Smith, was next to the eldest. Benjamin O. Smith was only five years of age when his parents came to Putnam county, where he grew to manhood. He attended the district schools and helped his father to clear the land and farm the home place. At twenty-seven years of age he was married to Margaret A. Hines, who was born in Culpepper county, Virginia, in 1836, and who was the daughter of Peter and Fanny (Stover) Hines, who in turn were both natives of Virginia and immigrated to Randolph county, Missouri, when their daughter, Margaret, was a child. Here her parents settled on a farm and remained the balance of their lives. Margaret Hines was one of seven children, five sons and two daughters.

Benjamin O. Smith went to Missouri, where he met and married Margaret Hines. After their marriage, they returned to Ohio and settled just northwest of his father's homestead, where they remained for a short time. Subsequently, they removed to a farm in the extreme northern part of Allen county, two miles west of Columbus Grove. It was here that Charles R. Smith was born. Benjamin O. Smith moved again, shortly afterward, to a farm northeast of Gomer in Allen county, where he remained for a few years. Later, he moved to a farm in Allen county, about one and one-half miles west of Charles R. Smith's birthplace. He bought this farm, but two years later, sold out on account of his wife's health, and moved to Missouri, in the fall of 1871. Here she died, in January, 1872. They had four children, three sons and one daughter, Cornelius F., Charles R., the subject of this sketch; Paschal M. and Mary F., deceased, who married George W. Foltz, and has one child living, Donald. Benjamin O. Smith returned to Ohio, with his family, immediately after the death of his wife, to the old homestead, where Benjamin O. was again married, in 1876, to Mrs. Rebecca (Stover) Pearson. To this union were born three children, Clayton, who died in childhood; Carl, who died in infancy, and Nellie, who died about the



age of seventeen. Benjamin O. Smith died on the old home place on December 16, 1888. At one time he was a member of the Christian church. He was a Democrat in politics.

Charles R. Smith was eight years old when his father returned from Missouri and has continued to live on the home place of his father and grandfather since that time. He attended the Smith district school and, after finishing the common school, helped his father on the farm until he became of age, after which time he went to Randolph county, Missouri. There he remained for one and one-half years. At the end of this period, he returned to his home to take charge of the farm, after his father's death in 1888.

Charles R. Smith continued to farm here until 1890, when he again went to Missouri and was married to Susie W. Furnish, who was born in California, in January, 1861. She was the daughter of Samuel and Eliza (Riggs) Furnish. After his marriage, Mr. Smith again returned to Ohio, and has resided here ever since. Charles R. and Susie W. (Furnish) Smith have had three children, Earl F., who was born on December 10, 1891; Erma C., June 12, 1893, and who is the wife of William J. Jones, and Paul Raymond, May 21, 1895. Both boys are students of Defiance College. Mrs. Smith died on June 19, 1899. About three years after the death of Mrs. Susie Smith, Mr. Smith was again married on January 1, 1902, to Mrs. Lillie V. (Jenkins) Gordon, who was born in Union county, Ohio, September 2, 1867. She is the daughter of William and Lucinda (Holycross) Jenkins. The former was born in Muskingham county, Virginia, December 25, 1840, and died in Paulding county, Ohio, September 23, 1905. Lucinda Holycross was born on August 21, 1836, and died on July 31, 1900, at Grover Hill, Paulding county, Ohio. William and Lucinda Jenkins had eleven children, six daughters and five sons, Abraham M., Lydia A., William Lawrence, Tabitha J., John A., Lillie B., the wife of Mr. Smith; Eli Clemens, Earl P., Mattie B., Nellie W. and Cassie Maude, all of whom are living, except Eli C. To Charles R. and Lillie V. (Jenkins) Smith have been born two children, one daughter, who died at birth, and Russell Dale, on June 3, 1905.

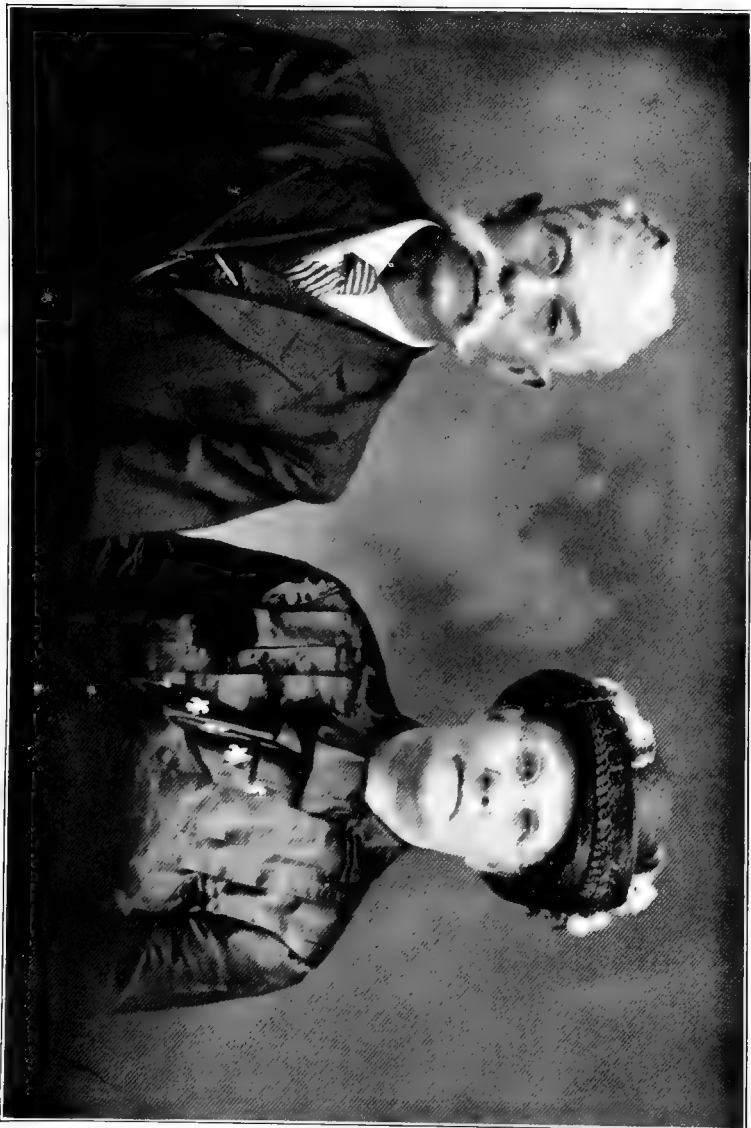
Charles R. Smith has always done general farming and has been successful. He, with his wife, are members of the Christian church. Mr. Smith has been clerk, treasurer and trustee of the church. Mr. Smith is a member of Vaughnsville Lodge No. 711, Knights of Pythias. He is a Democrat and has served as a member of the school board. He was a member at the time the new school house was built at Vaughnsville. Charles R. Smith is well and favorably known in Sugar Creek township and well merits the esteem and confidence in which he is held by his neighbors and fellow citizens.

## FRANK J. SMITH.

For four generations the Smith family, one of the best known of the many families of German origin in Putnam county, has been counted as a factor of the development of that section of the county in which their influence has been most largely felt. In all that time the influence for good exerted by this family has been steadfast and sure, and there can be no doubt that it has been potent in aiding the advancement of the cause of good local government wherever it has been felt. In thus making its impress upon the life of the community this family is entitled to mention in any work that attempts to deal with the history of this county, and the attention of the reader is called to this brief biography of the gentleman, a prosperous representative of the family here referred to, one of the most progressive farmers of Union township.

Frank J. Smith was born on a farm in section 34, in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, on April 28, 1873, the son of L. Jacob and Florentine (Verhoff) Smith, the former of whom was a native of Germany, the son of Jacob and Wilhelmina (Harb) Smith, and the latter of whom was a native of Erie county, Ohio, the daughter of Francis and Anna Maria (Kramer) Verhoff. For further details regarding the genealogy of the Verhoff family the reader's attention is directed to the biographical sketch of Theodore Verhoff, presented elsewhere in this volume.

Jacob Smith, who was born in Germany, was one of the issue of his father's second marriage. By his father's first marriage there were two children, Peter and John Jacob, both of whom are now deceased; and by the second marriage there were eight children, all of whom are deceased: Jacob, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, Joseph, Anthony, Frank, Mary, Christina, and two whose names have been lost to the present generation. All these children were born in Germany and came to America with their parents, the family settling on a farm in Erie county, Ohio, where the parents spent the remainder of their days. The Smith home was five miles south of the city of Sandusky, and the various members of the family became prominent members of that section. All were members of the Catholic church and were devoted to the affairs of the local parish; also being diligent in the good works of the community in general. It was there that Jacob Smith grew to manhood, and there he married Wilhelmina Harb, the daughter of Hubert and Cecelia (Anselm) Harb, the latter of whom was born in Germany, and upon their marriage came to America, settling in Erie county, Ohio, where they made their home on a farm during the remainder of their



MR. AND MRS. L. JACOB SMITH.



lives, and where they reared a family of six children: Wilhelmina, Uplonia, Cecelia, Amelia, Louis, Anthony and Hubert.

Jacob Smith remained in Erie county for three years after his marriage, and then came to Putnam county, locating on a farm of forty acres in Union township, to which he later added sixty acres, and on this farm he and his wife reared their family and he spent the remainder of his life. To Jacob and Wilhelmina (Harb) Smith there were born eight children: L. Jacob, Hubert, Cecelia, Wilhelmina, John, Mary, Theresa and Anthony. These children were brought up in the Catholic faith and were members of the church at Glandorf, as were their parents. Jacob Smith predeceased his wife, and upon his death she married, secondly, William Rampe, a shoe manufacturer at Glandorf, who, after this marriage, moved to Ottawa, and there the paternal grandmother of Frank J. Smith spent the remainder of her days.

L. Jacob Smith, first-born of Jacob and Wilhelmina (Harb) Smith, was reared on the paternal farm in Union township, this county, and received his education in the schools of Union and Greensburg townships. During the early years of his young manhood he worked on his father's farm, but after his marriage moved to a farm of one hundred acres in section 34, in Union township. He found this tract practically unimproved, and has brought it up to a state of cultivation second to none in that part of the county. As his farming operations extended, and their success became amply proved, he gradually added to his holdings, until at the time of his retirement from the active work of the farm he was the owner of slightly more than three hundred acres of choice farm land. Upon deciding to retire, he divided the greater portion of his lands among his children and bought five acres in the town of Kalida, on which he erected a splendid residence, and there he and his wife are now living in quiet retirement, enjoying the fruits of their early industry. In order that he might not "rust" in his old age, Mr. Smith, at the time of his retirement, bought twenty-three acres near his new home, to the cultivation of which he gave considerable attention. Though practically retired, he is active enough to do a good day's work yet and would reject with scorn any implication that he is "on the shelf." Mr. Smith is an active, intelligent old gentleman, highly respected, as is his good wife, both of whom enjoy the esteem of all who know them. In his more active days, Mr. Smith gave much attention to the public affairs of his neighborhood and had served the community very acceptably in the capacity of township trustee. He and his wife are members of the Catholic church, in which faith they reared their children, and he is a member of St. Joseph's Benevolent Society at Kalida.

On June 10, 1872, L. Jacob Smith was united in marriage with Floren-

tine Verhoff, a member of one of the county's old families, and to this union there were born seven children, as follow: Frank J., with whom this sketch particularly treats; Hubert, born on January 26, 1875; Wilhelmina, born on April 5, 1877; J. August, born on May 13, 1882; Anthony, born on April 17, 1885; Harry, born on June 19, 1888, and died on September 1, 1892, and William.

Frank J. Smith, first born of the above union, received his early education at St. Michael's parochial school, assisting his father on the farm during the vacation periods. During the years of his young manhood he "worked out" for three years and on June 10, 1903, was united in marriage with Helena Kahle, the daughter of Frank and Bernardina (Brinkman) Kahle, members of an old family in this county, whose genealogy is given special mention in the biographical sketch which appears elsewhere in this volume under the name of Frank Kahle, the father of Mrs. Smith.

After his marriage, Frank J. Smith moved onto the farm on which he now resides and which he bought from his father a couple of months previous to his marriage. This farm originally consisted of one hundred acres, which Mr. Smith enlarged in 1911 by the purchase of forty acres in Greensburg township, which he uses for pasture. Since taking over this farm, he has greatly improved the same and now has one of the best and most completely appointed farms in that part of the county. In addition to general farming, Mr. Smith engages quite extensively in the raising of cattle, his herd of full-blooded Herefords providing him with considerable profit.

To Frank J. and Helena (Kahle) Smith there have been born six children, as follow: Ignatius Albert Jacob, born on May 8, 1904; Franz Othmar Heironomous, born on December 1, 1906; Hubert Norbert Oscar, born on May 15, 1908; Franz William Harold, born on January 10, 1910; Marie Francesca Clara, born on November 13, 1911, and Maria Anna Wilhelmina, born on July 1, 1913.

Frank T. Smith and wife are devoted members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida and are earnest workers in all the beneficences of that parish. Mr. Smith is a member of St. Joseph's Benevolent Society and is likewise interested in all the good works of his community, he and Mrs. Smith being active in the various local movements designed to elevate the common welfare. He is one of the trustees of the Kalida Mutual Telephone Company and finds time, in connection with the multifarious duties of his farm to give proper attention to the public affairs of the township, in the good government of which he is deeply interested. The Smith family are known far and near for their amiability and hospitality and are quite popular among all classes throughout that section of the county.

## MOSTON WOOD.

To a great extent the prosperity of the agricultural sections of our country is due to the honest industry, the steady persistence, the unswerving perseverance and the wise economy which commonly characterize the farming element of the Buckeye state. Among this class may be mentioned Moston Wood, who, by reason of years of indefatigable labor and honest effort, has not only acquired a well-merited material prosperity, but has also richly earned the highest esteem of all with whom he has been associated.

Moston Wood was born near West Cairo, Allen county, Ohio, on September 21, 1869, and is descended from sterling English ancestry. His parents were Sanford B. and Susan (Trice) Wood. Sanford Wood was born in Allen county on December 31, 1846, the son of Albert G. Wood, a native of Logan county, Ohio. Albert G. came to Allen county in young manhood with his parents, who had entered land from the government, adjoining what is now the city of Lima. Albert Wood's father, Christopher Wood, the great-grandfather of Moston Wood, was one of the most prominent and active men of his community in pioneer days. He helped to lay out the city of Lima, in 1831, became the first judge of Allen county and was one of the commissioners appointed to locate the county seat. He was born in Kentucky in 1769, and was in many respects a remarkable man, serving on the frontier as an Indian scout and engaging in many of the border campaigns, including those of the War of 1812. He settled on Sugar creek in Allen county about 1824, where he continued to reside for many years. Albert Wood, who had come to Allen county when about fifteen or sixteen years of age, was twice married and to his first union were born nine children, of whom Sanford B., the father of Moston, was the youngest. Sanford B. Wood was about six years of age when his mother died and his father afterward married Mrs. Mary (Snyder) Trice, to which union were born five children, three girls and two boys. Albert Wood bought a farm two miles south of West Cairo and on that place Sanford B. Wood was reared to manhood. He enlisted as a private in the Sixty-fourth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in 1863, and served throughout the remainder of that struggle, participating in eleven battles and taking part with Sherman in his famous march to the sea. Upon the conclusion of hostilities he returned home and was married to Susan Trice, a native of Hagerstown, Maryland. Her father dying in Maryland, Mrs. Wood was brought by her mother to West Cairo, Ohio, where she grew to womanhood and remained until her marriage to Sanford Wood. After his marriage Mr. Wood operated the old home farm

for a number of years, and when Moston Wood was eleven years old the family came to Putnam county, locating on eighty acres of land two miles northwest of Vaughnsville, in Sugar Creek township, which is Moston Wood's present residence. To these parents were born eight children, Mollie, the wife of J. E. Deffenbaugh; Moston, the immediate subject of this review; Charlie, who married Tillie Syfert; William T., who married Grace Weaner; Albert E., who married Bertha Griffith; Garfield, who married Bessie Rimer; Walter W., who married Ellie Syfert, and one who died in infancy.

Moston Wood spent his early childhood days on the home farm, in Allen county, but his later youth was spent on the farm to which the family moved in Putnam county, where he received his education. He remained with his father on the home farm until attaining his majority, when he was engaged in various employments, until about 1896, when he engaged in the threshing business at which he had been employed somewhat during the previous six years. About this time, he located at Rimer, where he resided the following five years, and then moved to a farm one-half mile east of Rimer, which was his home during the following decade. Upon leaving Rimer, he disposed of his threshing machine and business and gave his entire attention to his farm. On March 7, 1913, Mr. Wood purchased the farm one-half mile west of Rimer, where he now lives and where he is engaged in the operation of fifty acres of land, in addition to his home place. He has consistently followed general farming, raising all the crops common to this locality and, by giving attention to their rotation and the use of other successful methods of up-to-date farming, he has been prosperous to that degree in keeping with which his efforts were bestowed. He also raises a good grade of live stock and is an advocate of all advanced methods in agriculture.

Moston Wood was united in marriage, on February 26, 1896, to Ada Elnora Deffenbaugh, who was born on June 2, 1873, in Nemaha county, Kansas, the daughter of Albert G. and Mary Elizabeth (Rohrer) Deffenbaugh. Albert G. Deffenbaugh was a native of Putnam county, Ohio, the son of John and Anna (Marshall) Deffenbaugh, who were natives of Pennsylvania, whence they came to Putnam county in the early days, entering land from the government in Sugar Creek township. Mr. Deffenbaugh was prominent in the early political life of the community and for several years efficiently filled the position of county auditor. Mary Elizabeth Rohrer was the daughter of Daniel Rohrer and was born in Champaign county, Ohio. To Moston and Ada E. (Deffenbaugh) Wood have been born two children, Lewis Raymond, on December 25, 1896, and Glenn Donald, October 8, 1908. Mrs. Wood is one of seven children, the others being: Asa Esle, who mar-



ried Clara Harrison; John Ezra, who married Mollie Wood; Louis Samuel, who died at the age of twelve years; Roy C., who married Nettie Bochmer; Lizzie May, who died at the age of sixteen years, and William B., who married Agnes Laudick.

Mr. Wood is a Republican and has rendered efficient service as the trustee of Sugar Creek township, having been elected to that office in November, 1913. He attends the Christian church of which his wife is a member and to the support of which he liberally contributes. Mr. Wood is distinctively one of the leading citizens of the township in which he lives and, as such, has made his influence felt among his fellow men and earned a name for enterprise, integrity and honor that entitles him to worthy notice in a work of the nature of this volume.

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#### JOHN D. WILLIAMS.

The two most important economic problems of agriculture from the social point of view and from the point of view of those engaged in the industry, are greater production and improved market facilities. John D. Williams, one of the best-known and most prominent farmers of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, is a man who, throughout his active career as a farmer, has emphasized the need of greater protection and better facilities for market. Mr. Williams's remarkable success as a farmer and stockman has resulted from two or three principal conditions. In the first place, Mr. Williams has for a long period of years forcefully applied himself to the problems of the farm and especially to the problem of larger production. He is a man who has made a close study of marketing and always has been able to get the best prices for his farm products. Aside from his material success in his life's vocation, Mr. Williams is a man of genteel personality, intelligent, broad minded and liberal in his attitude.

John D. Williams was born in Licking county, Ohio, March 10, 1862. He is the son of David L. and Mary (Griffith) Williams. David L. was born in North Wales, on June 16, 1832, and died on the old Williams homestead, south of Vaughnsville, Ohio, on February 6, 1908, at the ripe old age of seventy-six years and eight months. David L. Williams was the son of Hugh and Catherine (Lloyd) Williams, both natives of North Wales. The former was a quarryman and was killed as a result of a blast in a stone quarry. His death occurred when David, the father of John D., was a small

boy. His wife, Catherine, survived him only a few years. They had four children, two sons and two daughters, the eldest of whom was David, the father of John D.

David Williams spent his youth in Wales and while a boy he had the misfortune to receive an injury to one of his eyes, which nearly resulted in the loss of that member. He also suffered an injury to his knee that caused him to adopt the trade of a shoemaker. Fortunately, the injured knee became well, in later years, and he then gave up his work as a shoemaker. David received a limited education in his native country, but later was able to improve himself and became a well-read man. He was very fond of music, in which he was quite proficient. He was a leader of the choir in the Congregational church at Vaughnsville for some time. This church he helped to organize and he was a charter member. When about twenty-four years of age he came to America, and located first at Rome, New York, in 1856. Here he was employed for about a year on a farm, and then came to Licking county, Ohio, where he located at Newark, where he resumed farming. It was in Licking county that he was married, which marriage took place on February 1, 1860, when David Williams was twenty-eight years old. He was married to Mary Griffith, who was born in South Wales on September 17, 1835, and who was the daughter of William T. and Charlotte (Jones) Griffith. She came to America with her parents when a very small child, who settled in Licking county where they were farmers, and it was here they spent the remainder of their lives. They had nine children, seven girls and two boys. Mrs. Williams was the third child.

After his marriage, David Williams, who owned a small farm in Licking county, continued to farm for about six years, when he moved to Putnam county in the spring of 1866, where he settled in Sugar Creek township, one mile south of Vaughnsville. Here he bought eighty acres of land and, a little later, added forty acres to the original farm, which was well improved for that time. It had a large frame house and barn and had about sixty acres of land cleared. David Williams was a very successful farmer. He came to America a poor boy and, by dint of energy and perseverance, accumulated about five hundred and sixty acres of land. He was a Republican in politics, but in late years became a Democrat. He was one of Putnam county's most substantial citizens, a devout Christian, a man of high ideals and of unquestioned integrity. His wife, Mary (Griffith) Williams, was also a member of the Congregational church. She was a devoted wife and loving mother. She died about two years prior to her husband's death, May 19, 1907. They had ten children, seven sons and three daughters, all

of whom lived to maturity. These children are as follow: William G., born on November 15, 1860; John D., the subject of this sketch, March 10, 1862; Catherine, October 14, 1863; Charlotte, August 7, 1865, died on July, 1888; Thomas F., January 16, 1867; David L., December 21, 1869; Henry R., November 5, 1871; Hugh, November 19, 1873; Mary, January 30, 1876, and Walter E., November 26, 1878. All of these children married except Charlotte, who died at the age of twenty-three.

John D. Williams was born in Licking county, Ohio, and came to Putnam county when about four years of age. Here he spent the remainder of his childhood and youth. He attended the old Michael district school and helped his father on the home place until twenty-five years of age, when he was married on December 22, 1887, to Mary Jones, who was born on September 16, 1861, in Allen county, Ohio, and who was the daughter of Evan W. and Leah (Jones) Jones, both of whom were natives of North Wales. They had four children who died in infancy, Jennie, Bessie and two others, who died at birth.

After his marriage, Mr. Williams located on forty acres, part of a one hundred and sixty-acre tract belonging to his father, two and one-half miles west of Vaughnsville. Later, he purchased this forty acres and forty additional acres from his father. Several years later, he added, at different times, thirty-eight and sixty-nine acres respectively, giving him a total of one hundred and eighty-six acres. Mr. Williams has improved his home place with a commodious, modern residence and a large barn and other buildings, in keeping with the surroundings. The result is that he has one of the finest and best-improved farms in Putnam county. Mr. Williams has always done general farming and has been very successful.

Mrs. Mary Williams died on October 16, 1896. Mr. Williams was again married on March 24, 1898, to Anna Jones, who was born in Franklin county on September 11, 1862, and who was the daughter of John D. and Mary (Davis) Jones. Both were natives of North Wales and both came to this country in 1858, five years after their marriage which took place on May 3, 1853. The former was a son of David and Catherine (Jones) Jones and was born on April 9, 1828. John D. Jones was a farmer by occupation and one of six children. The father died when he was but six years of age, and his mother when he was twenty-one years of age. At the age of nine, he started out in life for himself, working for his uncle. His wife, Mary, was born on August 5, 1828, and was the daughter of Richard and Sarah Davis. Mary was one of a family of nine children, seven of whom lived to maturity. John D. Jones died on January 12, 1876, in Putnam county.

His wife, Mary, died on October 1, 1870, when her daughter Anna, the wife of Mr. Williams, was eight years of age. When two years of age, Mrs. Anna Williams came with her parents to Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, where they located two and one-half miles northeast of Vaughnsville. Here she spent her childhood and here she attended the old Smith district school. She remained at home until her marriage to Mr. Williams, when she took up her present residence.

John D. Williams is an ardent Republican. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 711, of Vaughnsville. He is also a member of the Congregational church and a trustee of this church. John D. Williams is one of Sugar Creek township's and Putnam county's most substantial and progressive citizens. He is well and favorably known throughout Putnam county.

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#### ELIAS WELTY.

It is a well-attested maxim that the greatness of a community or state lies, not in the machinery of government or even in its institutions, but rather in the sterling qualities of the individual citizen in his capacity for high and unselfish effort and his devotion to the public welfare. In these particulars he whose name appears at the head of this review has conferred a dignity upon his locality. As an elemental part of the history, it is fitting to record a resume of his career, with the object of noting his connections with the advancement of one of the most flourishing and progressive sections of the commonwealth. No man in Putnam county stands higher in the esteem of his fellow citizens than Elias Welty, and very few men are better known than he. Very few have contributed as much as he to the industrial prestige of this county. As treasurer and general manager of Putnam county's largest individual industry, Mr. Welty has been connected with every feature of Putnam county's growth and prosperity during the last two decades.

Elias Welty was born on September 6, 1874, on the old Welty homestead, two and one-half miles east of Pandora, Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of John U. and Catherine (Thut) Welty, whose family history is contained in the sketch of Mr. Welty's brother, Aldine J., recorded elsewhere in this volume.

Elias Welty attended the Old Mulberry district school when a boy, and supplemented his education received there by a course in a school of correspondence, becoming an expert in drafting and outlining patterns. He re-



ELIAS WELTY.



mained on the old home place and helped his father until he had reached his majority. At this time he took up the carpenter trade and followed it for one year. He then took a position as an engineer in the planing mill of Peter P. Welty, at Pandora, and retained this position for two years. In 1897, Mr. Welty joined with P. A. and John M. Amstutz in the organization and erection of a mill at Pandora. The concern was known as the Pandora Woolen Mill. Mr. Welty continued in this business for two years, and then sold out. A new concern, known as the Pandora Manufacturing Company, took over the assets of the old company and started an overall factory. At this time, Mr. Welty took a minor position with the new company, as well as a financial interest in it. He was an operator of a button machine, and held this position for six months, when he took up folding, along with other work, in the meantime. At the expiration of six months, he was engaged in spraying goods and as a helper in the cutting department. Following this, he devoted all his time to cutting with an electric cutter. It was at this particular time that he took up his correspondence schools work in drafting patterns and in making new designs. He was in full charge of the cutting department for some time,—approximately five years. By July, 1909, he had become so proficient in every detail pertaining to the management and manufacturing department of this company that the board of directors unanimously elected him treasurer and manager of the company, which was a distinct compliment and a tribute to his untiring efforts and ability in behalf of the company's success.

From time to time, Mr. Welty has increased his financial holdings in the company, until he is now the largest stockholder. His efforts as treasurer and manager of the company have met with marked success, and to his ability is due, very largely, the credit for the splendid standing of this firm. The original business has grown to such an extent that, in 1912, the company took over the plant of the New Ideal Overall Company at Celina, Ohio; and in the spring of 1913, the company opened an exclusive shirt factory at Zanesville, Ohio. Since which time, under the able management of Mr. Welty, the three plants, operated as one, have more than doubled their business.

Elias Welty was married on October 14, 1897, at the age of twenty-three, to Elizabeth Amstutz, the daughter of Abraham and Catherine (Hilty) Amstutz. Mrs. Welty was born, August 26, 1873. Her family history is to be found in the sketch of P. A. Amstutz, and of Isaac Hilty, found elsewhere in this volume. She was born in Riley township, Putnam

county, Ohio, and attended the common schools. She resided with her parents on the Amstutz homestead until the time of her marriage. To Elias and Elizabeth (Amstutz) Welty six children have been born, all of whom are living and at home. They are as follow: Orrin Stanley, Catherine Leona, Dorothy Elizabeth, Elmer Elias, Ruth Marie and Ledihlia Opal.

Elias Welty is a Democrat, and while he has never taken an active interest in political affairs, he is a man whose judgment is respected and whose counsel is sought. He is a member of the Grace Mennonite church and active in the affairs of this denomination. Mrs. Welty is also a member. In every respect, Elias Welty is a self-made, successful business man. In spite of obstacles, he has forged his way to the front, and has reached an enviable position as a head of Putnam county's largest industry. He is a business man of recognized ability and integrity, and a distinct asset to the community where he has spent practically all his life, and where he is so well known.

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### JOHN E. THOMAS.

Success is achieved only by the exercise of certain and distinct qualities of nature and it cannot be achieved without effort. Those to whom great epochal changes have been made in the political and industrial world, began early in life to prepare themselves for their peculiar duties and responsibilities. It was only by the most persevering and continuous endeavor that they succeeded in rising superior to the obstacles in their ways and reaching the goal of their ambition. Such lives are an inspiration to others who are less courageous and more prone to give up the fight before their ideal is reached or definite success attained. In the life history of John E. Thomas, there is positive evidence of those peculiar characteristics which make for achievement and persistency coupled with fortitude in cordial and genial temperament. As a consequence of exercising these qualities, Mr. Thomas is today one of the leading farmers and most respected citizens of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio.

John E. Thomas was born in Sugar Creek township, Allen county, Ohio, March 23, 1859. He is the son of Evan and Jane (Evans) Thomas. Evan Thomas was born in South Wales in 1827, and was the son of John Thomas and wife, who were natives of Wales.

John Thomas came to America when Evan was twelve years old, in 1839. He came first to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and here he remained for



a short time, subsequently, coming to Sugar Creek township, Allen county, where he settled two miles east of Gomer. Here he established a home in the virgin forest, building quite a pretentious hewed log house with two large rooms and a center hall on the ground floor. He then proceeded to clear his land, and it was here that he remained until his death. John Thomas and wife had fourteen children, all boys, all of whom grew to maturity, rearing large families themselves.

Evan Thomas, the father of John E., was one of the fourteen boys. He was twelve years of age when he came to America. He remained in Pittsburgh for a few years and here learned the carpenter trade in which he became very proficient. He was married in Pittsburgh to Jane Evans, who was a native of Wales and who came as a girl with her parents to America. They settled on a farm in Cambria county and remained there for the balance of their lives. Jane Evans was one of six children, four sons and two daughters. After Evan Thomas's marriage, he moved to Allen county, locating in Sugar Creek township, three miles east of Gomer. Here he bought eighty acres which was heavily timbered. He first built a two-roomed log cabin with a shed lean-to and this served for a good many years. Later, he built a very substantial house of six or seven rooms, which a few years later was added to until it contained ten rooms, which house was built entirely of native timber. It had a center hall and a full basement. It is a noteworthy fact that John E. Thomas's father was a skilled carpenter and made all the material from the rough lumber. His house was built largely of black and white walnut, the doors, windows and other parts being worked out by hand. So well was it constructed that it is still in an excellent state of preservation and is still occupied as a residence.

Evan Thomas, the father of John E., was a very industrious man. He managed to clear practically all of his farm during his residence here and, in addition, followed his trade as a carpenter in the nearby towns and counties. He finally retired and moved to Gomer, at which time he owned one hundred and twenty-five acres of well-improved land. He was an active member of the Congregational church at Gomer, of which he was a deacon. He was a Republican in politics. Evan Thomas was a man of strong will power and high ideals, and of unquestioned integrity. His wife, Jane Evans, who lived a most useful and consistent life, a member of the Congregational church, a devoted and loving mother, died in the spring of 1911. Her husband had preceded her by two years, having died in April, 1909. They were the parents of ten children, seven daughters and three sons, two sons and two daughters dying in infancy. Those surviving were Elizabeth, the wife of David

Price, of Gomer, Allen county; Mary, the wife of Robert Jones, of Lima, Ohio; Anna, deceased, the wife of Thomas James, of Stella, Nebraska; John E., the subject of this sketch; Margaret, the wife of William Humphries, of Van Wert, Ohio; and Katie, who died unmarried at Gomer in 1892.

John E. Thomas was born on his father's old homestead farm, three miles east of Gomer, in Sugar Creek township, Allen county. Here he spent his childhood and youth. He attended the old Leipsic district school after which he attended school at the Ohio Northwestern University, at Ada, for two terms. After finishing school, Mr. Thomas continued to help his father on the old home farm. Here he remained until his marriage at the age of twenty-five.

John E. Thomas was married on February 24, 1887, to Lovetta M. Weaver, who was born in German township, Allen county, near Lima, October 13, 1862, and who was the daughter of John and Sallie (Bowers) Weaver. John Weaver was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, in November, 1812, and was the son of Peter Weaver and wife, both of whom were natives of Germany, the former of Metz-on-the-Rhine. Peter Weaver came to America when a young man and settled first in Virginia, where he engaged in farming and where he remained until his declining years which, in company with his wife, he spent with his son, David, in Allen county. They had three sons, Peter, David and John, the latter the father of Mrs. Thomas.

John Weaver was born in Virginia and spent his early life there. He learned the cabinetmaker's trade and received a good practical education. He was married to Sallie Bowers, also a native of Rockingham county, Virginia, who was a daughter of John Bowers and wife, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Pennsylvania of German descent. John Bowers lived and died in the Shenandoah Valley. When Sallie Bowers was sixteen years of age, her father died and her mother spent the latter years of her life with her daughter, Lydia, at Petersburg, Illinois. Sallie was one of four daughters, Helena, Lydia, Sallie and Mary. Sallie spent her early life in Virginia and was married, at Lacey Springs, to Mr. Weaver. After their marriage, they resided at this place for several years and then moved to Allen county, Ohio, making the trip overland in a covered wagon. They settled in German township, three miles north of Lima, where John Weaver bought one hundred and sixty acres of land and to which he added thirty acres in later years. This farm he bought of a Mr. Custard, for forty dollars an acre, a record price in those days, the transaction causing considerable comment. It was here that John Weaver remained during the rest of his

life, dying in November, 1892. His wife had preceded him by about twelve years.

Although not a practical farmer, John Weaver, nevertheless, was an active man. He was a notary public for many years and a justice of the peace for about forty years, the duties of these offices requiring all of his time. He was a successful man, financially, and a man who enjoyed the universal respect and confidence of his fellow citizens. In politics, he was a Democrat. He was a charter member of the Christian church at Cairo and was a deacon in that church until his death.

John and Sallie (Bowers) Weaver had ten children, eight daughters and two sons, Mary, who became the wife of Frank Cupp, of Ava, Illinois; Hannah, who married Doctor Croney, of Columbus, Ohio; Sarah, deceased, who was the wife of Henry Irvin, of Lima, Ohio; Samantha, who married Dr. G. H. Irvin, of Lancaster, California; Ollie, who married Nicholas Pfeifer, of Elida, Ohio; Frank, who is a farmer at Beaver Dam, Ohio; Ida, who became the wife of Eugene Ritenour, of Elida, Ohio; Lydia, who married Edward Enslin, of Gomer, Ohio; Lovetta, who is the wife of Mr. Thomas; and William, of Lima, Ohio.

Prior to his marriage, Mr. Thomas spent four or five years as a clerk at Lima, Ohio. After his marriage, he settled on eighty acres of his father's land in the southwestern part of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, only ten acres of which land was cleared. Mr. Thomas built a four-roomed frame house to which he moved later, where he and his wife have resided since. Mr. Thomas proceeded to clear and drain the land which has practically been completed. In addition to the original eighty, some years later, Mr. Thomas purchased eighty acres on the south, about twenty-five acres of which was cleared, the remainder having since been put under cultivation. In addition to other improvements, Mr. Thomas has added five rooms to his residence, built a large frame barn, a cattle shed and other buildings. Today he has one of the finest and best-improved farms in Putnam county.

John E. and Lovetta M. (Weaver) Thomas have had four children, Grace and Glenn, twins; Juanita and Bernice. Grace and Glenn were born on April 7, 1890, and the latter died on September 7, 1890; Grace, who graduated from Defiance College, is now a member of the faculty of the Paulding high school; Juanita, January 25, 1892, is now the wife of J. C. Slusser, of Ada, Ohio, and has one child, Roger Weaver; Bernice, March 23, 1896, is a graduate of the Vaughnsville high school.

John E. Thomas has always done general farming and has been very successful. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 711.

of Vaughnsville. John E. Thomas and wife are members of the Ottawa Christian church where Mr. Thomas is treasurer of this congregation. John E. Thomas is one of Sugar Creek township's well-known and progressive farmers; in fact, he is rated as one of the best farmers in this section of the state. His standing in the community is of the very highest and he is popular with all classes of people. Mr. Thomas has served as justice of the peace for one term and for several terms as a member of the township school board. In addition to his interests in farming, he had considerable success in buying and selling live stock.

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#### WILLIAM E. REIGER.

Dependent, very largely, upon his own resources from his early youth, William E. Reiger, of Sugar Creek township, has attained no insignificant success. And though he may have, like most men, encountered obstacles and met with reverses, he has pushed steadily forward, ever willing to work for the success he has achieved. His tenacity and fortitude are due, no doubt, in a large measure to the worthy traits inherited from his sterling father and ancestors. His high ideals and correct principles he has ever sought to perpetuate in his relations of life.

William E. Reiger was born on March 31, 1876, four miles north of Dayton, in Montgomery county, Ohio. He is the son of Ephraim and Christiana (Busche) Reiger. Ephraim Reiger was born in November, 1841, at Baden, Germany, and was the son of Leopold and Christine (Sipe) Reiger. Leopold Reiger was a farmer by occupation, who also conducted a vineyard. He came to America in 1847 and settled in Montgomery county, Ohio, near Dayton, where he purchased a farm and remained for the balance of his life. There were three children born to Leopold and Christine (Sipe) Reiger, Ephraim, the father of William E.; Minnie, the wife of Valentine Henne, who resided in Dayton, and Barbara, deceased.

Ephraim Reiger came to America with his parents at the age of six years and spent his childhood in Montgomery county, where he attended the common schools and as a young man was employed as a farmer in Montgomery and adjoining counties. He also worked some time in Van Wert county. At the age of twenty-seven he was married to Christiana Busche, of Montgomery county, who was born there in September, 1851. She was a daughter of William and Christiana (Arrat) Busche, both of whom were natives of Germany. William Busche was a farmer by occupation and spent

practically all his life after coming to America in Montgomery county. William and Christiana (Arrat) Busche had eight children, five daughters and three sons, William, Jacob, Charles, Callie, Rosie, Matilda, Annie and Christiana, the mother of Mr. Reiger. Christiana spent her childhood in Montgomery county and remained there until her marriage. After the marriage of Ephraim Reiger he remained in Montgomery county for sixteen years, where he was engaged in farming. Subsequently he moved to Putnam county, settling in Sugar Creek township, where, five years previously, he had purchased eighty-six and one-half acres two miles east of Vaughnsville. It was known as the Nichols farm. This farm had a four-room log house and a log barn. The land at this time had been about half cleared, Ephraim Reiger clearing the remainder, excepting six acres. He improved the farm by the erection of a commodious nine-room residence, a large barn (forty by one hundred and eleven feet), and other buildings in keeping with home-like surroundings. To his original holdings Ephraim Reiger added forty acres on the north, making a total of one hundred and twenty-six and one-half acres. This farm comprises as fine land as is to be found anywhere in Putnam county. Ephraim Reiger continued to live on the farm until the spring of 1904, when he retired and moved to Columbus Grove, where he now resides. He and his wife have had six children: Lorena is unmarried and lives at home; William E. is the subject of this sketch; Lenora is unmarried and lives at home; Arthur resides at Dayton, Ohio; Myrtle is the wife of Benjamin Seitz, Jr., and they have three children, Emerson, Christine and Mildred; Edna is unmarried and lives at home.

William E. Reiger came with his parents to Putnam county, at the age of eleven years, and attended the district school, known as "Abe's College." After finishing the common schools he continued to help his father on the old home place, where he has resided ever since. At the age of twenty-seven, on March 2, 1904, Mr. Reiger was married to Ida Smith, who was born one and three-fourth miles east of Vaughnsville, in Sugar Creek township, March 23, 1878. She is the daughter of James F. and Eliza (Slusser) Smith. James F. Smith was born on the old Smith homestead, two miles northeast of Vaughnsville, on April 10, 1842. He is the son of James and Mary (Stoner) Smith. The complete history of the Smith family is to be found in a sketch appearing elsewhere in this volume, of C. R. Smith, whose father was James F. Smith's brother. Eliza Slusser was born in Shelby county, Ohio, January 7, 1845, and died in Columbus Grove, December 16, 1907. James F. and Eliza Smith had eleven children, as follow: Ira; James and Joseph, twins; Ollie, the wife of Elias Williams; Benjamin, who lives at

Vaughnsville; Emma, the wife of C. H. Huffman; Ida A., the wife of Mr. Reiger; Anna, who died at the age of sixteen; Leuella, the wife of Alfred Newton, of Bowling Green, Ohio; Jennie, the wife of Gomer Williams, of Cambridge, Ohio, and Jesse. Ida A., the wife of Mr. Reiger, spent her childhood on the old home place and remained there until her marriage.

William E. Reiger took charge of the home farm after his marriage, and has lived upon it since that time. He has always done general farming and is an extensive breeder of thoroughbred Polled-Durham cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs.

William E. Reiger is a member of the Christian church at Vaughnsville. He has been a trustee and chorister of this church for many years. His wife is also a member. Mr. Reiger is one of Sugar Creek townships most substantial farmers. He is well and favorably known and enjoys the confidence of all his neighbors. He is a Democrat and is a member of Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 711 at Vaughnsville.

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### BENJAMIN KIRKENDALL.

Few residents of Putnam county, Ohio, are as well and favorably known as the enterprising farmer and representative citizen whose life story is here briefly told. None stands higher than he in the confidence and esteem of the community in which he resides, and for the material advancement of which he has devoted much of his time and influence.

Benjamin Kirkendall, a well-known farmer of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, is descended from patriotic stock, and was born on a farm in Greensburg township, January 4, 1851, the son of Daniel and Elizabeth Kirkendall, who moved from Columbiana county, Ohio, to Putnam county, where they lived only two years, returning to their former home, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Elizabeth Kirkendall was a daughter of John and Ruth Crawford, life-time residents of Columbiana county, Ohio. Their children were David, Perry, who was killed during the Civil War; Sarah, Elizabeth, the mother of Benjamin Kirkendall. The Crawford family figures prominently in the early history of Ohio. Colonel Crawford, one of the ancestors of Benjamin Kirkendall, was captured by the Indians and burned at the stake.

Benjamin Kirkendall was educated in the public schools of Greensburg township. When a young man he worked on his father's farm, and also on

other farms of the neighborhood, working by the day and month. He also made considerable money chopping rails and constructing ditches.

Benjamin Kirkendall was married on December 25, 1895, to Minnie Campbell, the daughter of John and Ellen (McKinley) Campbell, the former a native of Putnam county, and the latter of Columbiana county, Ohio. John Campbell was a son of Robert and Winifred (Guy) Campbell, the former a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and the latter of Columbiana county, Ohio. They were married in Pennsylvania, and, shortly after their marriage, came to Putnam county, Ohio. They lived here for a short time and purchased forty acres of land. This land Mr. Campbell traded for a horse and sleigh and returned to Pennsylvania. Subsequently, he came back to Putnam county, and located on a farm here, where he also established a blacksmith shop. Their children were: Matthew, Sarah Jane, Jesse, Richard, John, George, Henry, Elizabeth, Rachel, Almira and three who died young. Ellen (McKinley) Campbell was a daughter of Charles and Mary Ann McGinley, the former a native of Ireland. They settled on a farm in Putnam county, and were the parents of the following children: Sarah Ann, Margaret, Elizabeth, Mary and Ellen.

John Campbell, the father-in-law of Mr. Kirkendall, was a soldier in the Civil War, having served in Company C, One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. After his marriage, he moved to a farm in Perry township, and one year later moved to Greensburg township, where he now lives. He is the owner of two hundred and five acres of fine farming land. Mrs. Campbell died in 1914. They had eight children, Robert, Albert, deceased; Minnie, Ivy, Gertrude, deceased; Chester, Leo, deceased, and Benjamin.

Before his marriage, Benjamin Kirkendall lived for a time in Michigan with his parents, where the family lived for one year, at which time they returned to Putnam county. After his marriage, he moved to a farm which he had previously purchased in Greensburg township. This farm consists of fifty acres, and here Mr. Kirkendall and his wife have lived for nineteen years. Mr. Kirkendall is a general farmer and makes a specialty of raising Shorthorn cattle.

Benjamin Kirkendall and wife are the parents of three children, only one of whom is now living, Gertrude, was born on December 6, 1896, and died in 1907; Dorothy, born on April 21, 1902, died at the age of nine months, and Datha, born on January 16, 1904.

Benjamin Kirkendall and wife formerly belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church, but are now active members of the United Brethren church.

Mr. Kirkendall is a Democrat, and has served his party and the citizens of his township in several important public positions, among which was the office of township trustee, member of the school board and road supervisor. Mr. Kirkendall is an industrious, honored, honest and hardworking farmer, and is a man possessed with a genial temperament and is popular where he lives.

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### GEORGE W. MILLER.

Putnam county is indebted, perhaps, to the Miller family as much as to any other, for its wondrous transformation to one of the treasures of the Buckeye state; for members of this family have been leaders in agricultural, industrial and civic affairs since the early days. Each, with a fidelity to duty and a persistency of purpose peculiar to that class of men who take the lead in large affairs, has performed well his duty in all the relations of life, and while advancing his own interests, he has not been unmindful of the general welfare of his fellow citizens. Thus the members of this family rightfully deserve an honored page in the history of this locality.

George W. Miller was born in Sugar Creek township, on April 25, 1864, a son of Jacob W. and Catherine (Best) Miller. Jacob W. Miller was born near Piqua, Ohio, on September 19, 1831, a son of Jackson and Margaret (Teegarden) Miller. Jackson Miller and wife were both natives of Pennsylvania, coming to Ohio in a very early day, and locating near Piqua, where they were married. Shortly afterward, when George W.'s father, their son Jacob, was about one year old, they came to Putnam county, locating on what became a part of Sugar Creek township, Allen county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Margaret Teegarden's father, Peter Teegarden, came to Putnam county in the early days, and entered government land, buying twelve quarter sections in one body. This land he distributed among his children, one of whom, Margaret, was the subject's grandmother, who received one of these quarter sections. On this old homestead, Jacob Miller was reared to manhood, and received his education in the schools of the neighborhood. At about the age of twenty-seven years, he was married to Catherine Best. He was one of nine children born to his parents, eight of whom grew to maturity, namely: Jacob, Elizabeth, Nancy Ann, Margaret, Lucinda, Mary, who died in infancy, Jackson, Elisha and William. Each of these received from his parents eighty acres of land. That inherited by Jacob lies one and three-quarter miles east of Vaughnsville. After his mar-



riage to Catherine Best, at the age of about twenty-seven years, he continued to operate the old home place, and there remained until his death, which occurred on January 17, 1906. His wife, Catherine, who was born in 1841, died on February 17, 1914. She was the daughter of George and Hannah (Sneary) Best, natives of Tuscarawas county, who settled in Union township when Catherine was about twelve years of age, and there George Best and wife spent the remainder of their lives. Jacob Miller was a hard-working man, and by good management and strict economy accumulated an estate of four hundred acres, from which, at his death, each of his children received forty acres. To him and his wife were born a large family, all of whom grew to maturity, namely: William, now deceased; George; Sarah, deceased; James; Jane; Ann; Margaret, deceased; Mary, and Allen.

George W. Miller was reared under the parental roof, securing a good, practical, common school education, and on the death of his father, received the northwest forty-acre tract of the original one hundred and sixty acres of his father's estate. To this he later added fifty acres of the north and twenty acres on the east, thus giving him a splendid farm of one hundred and ten acres. He remained, continuously, on the old home place, until about 1913, when he moved to his present residence and the farm which was formerly known as the James Garner place. Here he carried on general farming operations and also gave some attention to the breeding of thoroughbred Double Standard Polled Durham cattle. He is progressive and wide-awake in his methods of farming and has earned a high reputation in his community because of his success. The buildings are kept in the best of repair, and the general condition of the farm indicates the owner to be a man of good ideas and splendid taste.

George W. Miller was united in marriage on January 27, 1911, to Ruhama Vandemark, who was born in Union township, on June 20, 1888, a daughter of Elmer and Dora (Osborn) Vandemark, the former a native of Union township, and the latter of Allen county. To this union has been born one child, Kenneth Ewing, on August 28, 1914.

George W. Miller is an earnest Democrat, while his religious views are those of the Christian church, of which his wife is also a member, and to which they give earnest support. Mr. Miller is well and favorably known throughout his section of Putnam county as a result of the industrious life he has lived here, being regarded by everybody as a man of sound business principles, thoroughly up-to-date in all phases of agriculture and stock raising, and as a man, who, while advancing his individual interests, does not neglect his duties as a citizen.

## FRANK EDELBROCK.

In most agricultural communities there are farmers who stand out among the citizens of the community, not so much for the volume of their wealth, or the amount of land they own, as for the skill, care and intelligence with which their farms are cultivated; for their native and acquired interest and information in the larger phases of the vocation of farming; for their breadth of sympathy and general information on public questions; for their innate personal ability, aside from any material success which they may have attained. One of the farmers of Jackson township, Putnam county, Ohio, who belongs in this class is Frank Edelbrock, whose home is a model of neatness, comfort and hospitality, and is graced with the womanly charm of a devoted and intelligent wife and mother.

Born near Glandorf, in Putnam county, Ohio, May 28, 1864, Frank Edelbrock is the grandson of Peter and Anna M. Edelbrock, who were natives of Prussia, and who, after their marriage in that country in 1823, farmed there until 1834, when they emigrated to the United States, landing at Baltimore, Maryland, and later coming to Glandorf, in Putnam county, Ohio, where they were pioneer farmers, and where they lived until their death. He died in 1844, and was survived by his wife, who lived until 1864. Of their nine children all are now deceased. William and Frank, both of whom were volunteer soldiers in the Civil War, and who served in the Thirty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, gave the best years of their life to the service of their country, and Frank died in the service. The other children were Henry, Louise, Mrs. Mary C. Bruskutter, Edward, Theodore, an infant buried at sea during the voyage to America, and Andrew, who was Mr. Edelbrock's father.

Andrew Edelbrock was a lad six years old when his parents emigrated to America. Born near Vilda, Prussia, on January 6, 1827, he lived on his father's farm near Glandorf, in Greensburg township, attended the public schools of his generation, and, when fifteen years of age, worked for a short time as clerk at Shiloh, Ohio, returning to Greensburg township in 1856. Four years later he was married to Catherine Herlage, and, after his marriage, lived on a farm of eighty acres in Greensburg township. He moved to a farm of two hundred and forty acres in Jackson township in 1870, and in 1907 removed to Kalida, where he lived retired until his death, July 6, 1913. He and his wife were members of the St. Michael's Catholic church. Of their twelve children, six are living and six are deceased, as follow:

William H., Mary, Frank, Ignatius, Albert and Emma, living; and Barney, Helena, John, Amalia, Peter and Anna, deceased.

The parents of Mrs. Catherine (Herlage) Edelbrock came to this country before their marriage, settled on a farm in Greensburg township after their marriage, and reared a family of four children, all of whom are deceased, as follow: Catherine, Helena, Mary and Anna. They were members of St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf.

Educated in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, and reared on his father's farm in that township, Frank Edelbrock, after having reached his majority, rented the Kimmerle farm, in Jackson township, and remained there until some time after his marriage, when he removed to the Pott farm, in section 11, of Jackson township, where he lived for about two years, having previously purchased eighty acres in section 12 in Jackson township. After leaving the Pott farm, he moved to this farm, and here he has erected substantial buildings, including a splendid barn and residence. Mr. Edelbrock owns forty acres in Greensburg township, which he uses for pasture, and which he has cleared and drained. He does general farming and makes a specialty of raising Hereford and Durham cattle. His farm is very attractive, has a splendid driveway which appears to the very best advantage during any season of the year.

Frank Edelbrook was married on November 25, 1895, to Katherine Summers, a daughter of William P. and Mary Summers of Union township, the former of whom was born in County Clare, Ireland, in 1823, and who was the son of Thomas and Katherine Summers. Thomas Summers was the son of a wealthy contractor whose property was confiscated as a consequence of the part he took in the Rebellion of 1798 in Ireland, and with his children he was forced to flee the country. At the age of ten years, William P. Summers became a clerk to a priest and, while acting in this capacity, ran away to sea and became an able seaman, visiting almost every country in the world. He sailed around Cape Horn to California, in 1849, became a gold miner of that country and later was a gold miner in Australia. Returning to Ireland, he was married, March 15, 1857, to Mary Martin, and coming to America with his bride shortly after their marriage, they settled first in Seneca county, Ohio, and in 1861 came to Putnam county, living first in Kalida and later on a farm. During the last few years the venerable William P. Summers and his wife have lived in Kalida. He has served as postmaster of Kalida, as township clerk, as constable, and in other minor offices. He has always been a Democrat. He is well-versed in travel lore and, being possessed of a brilliant intellect, is able to tell many interesting tales of his

extensive travels. William P Summers and wife were the parents of nine children.

Mrs. Edelbrook has been the mother of three children: William, born on August 1, 1896, and who died on September 28, 1898; Mary, April 18, 1898; and Edward, January 5, 1903. She was a school teacher before her marriage, and is a woman of splendid intellectual attainments. Possessed of remarkable literary ability, she has been a prodigious contributor to newspapers and magazines, especially the *Ohio Farmer* and Orange Judd weeklies. Her contributions to the various farm papers have been admired for their practical utility. Coming as they do from the practical wife of a practical farmer, and dealing with the commonest matters of farm life from a woman's point of view, they have been widely read. Mrs. Edelbrook has applied her scientific knowledge of the farm successfully to the management of her poultry farm and has been very successful in all of her undertakings. Her co-operation and sympathetic interest contributed largely to the success of her husband.

Frank Edelbrook and wife are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida. Mr. Edelbrook is a popular, industrious and enterprising farmer, a valuable citizen in his community and one who is widely admired by the people of Putnam county.

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#### DAVID S. EVANS.

The student interested in the history of Putnam county, Ohio, does not have to carry his investigation far in its annals before learning that David S. Evans has been an active and leading representative of the agricultural interests and that his labors have proven a potent force in making this a rich farming region. For a number of years, Mrs. Evans has carried on farming, gradually improving his farm and, while he has prospered in this, he has also found ample opportunity to assist in the material development of the county and his co-operation has been for the general good.

David S. Evans is descended from a sterling line of Welsh ancestry, being the son of David and Elizabeth (Davis) Evans and the grandson of William and Margaret Evans. David Evans, Sr., was born in North Wales in 1827 and, in his native land, was reared during his youth and received his early education. In young manhood, he came to America, settling first in Butler county, Ohio, where he followed the occupation of farming. Later he came to Allen and Putnam counties and, after his marriage in 1871, settled one mile south of Rimer in Sugar Creek township, where he bought

eighty acres of land. This land had a two-roomed log cabin and a frame barn with about twelve acres of land cleared, the remainder of the tract being in a virginal state of wildness and most of it heavily covered with timber. He proceeded to clear this land and cut the timber from fifty-two acres, having sixty-four acres in all in comfortable condition at the time of his death. He tilled much of this land and, in other ways, improved it so that he was considered an intelligent and progressive agriculturist, being numbered among the leaders in his community. His death occurred on September 27, 1877, he being fifty-one years of age.

On January 30, 1871, David Evans, Sr., married Mrs. Elizabeth (Davis) Davis, the daughter of Henry and Mary (Evans) Davis. She was born in Butler county, Ohio, January 31, 1833. She had previously been married to Richard Davis, who was born in North Wales in 1818, the son of Thomas and Sarah Davis, their marriage occurring in Allen county, August 17, 1851. To this union were born three children, Henry R., on August 8, 1852, who resides in Illinois; Thomas A., June 25, 1853, who resides in Nebraska; and William L., June 5, 1855, who lives in Dayton, Ohio. Mr. Davis died in 1855. Another child, Rhoda R., born November 17, 1863, is the wife of Richard Davis and lives in Allen county. To David and Elizabeth Evans were born four children, the first of whom died at birth, January 30, 1871; John B., born on June 26, 1873, and died August 21, 1877; David S., November 10, 1874; and Robert, November 5, 1876, and died February 20, 1877. The mother of these children died in Gomer, Allen county, May 24, 1899, at the age of sixty-six years. It is noteworthy that she had four brothers in the Civil War—Abner, Henry, Silas and Ebenezer, Henry being killed during that conflict.

David S. Evans, who is the only survivor of his family, was born, as above stated, on November 10, 1874, on the farm where he now resides. He received his education in the common schools of his township and then took a commercial course at the Lima Business College. He then took employment with a clothing concern at Lima, Ohio, with whom he remained for two years and at the end of which time he returned to the home farm, to the cultivation of which he has devoted himself, continuously, since. He is wide-awake and up-to-date in his farming methods and has met with good success, his efforts being rewarded with a due measure of success.

On January 18, 1899, Mr. Evans was married to Anna McBride, who was born in Amanda township, Allen county, August 24, 1874, the daughter of Levi and Druzilla (Cremean) McBride. Levi McBride, who was of Scotch-Irish descent was born at Adelpia, Ross county, Ohio, June 21, 1832, and died December 10, 1904. He was the son of Alexander McBride, who

was probably born in Ireland. Druzilla Cremean was born in Allen county, Ohio, on May 18, 1835, the daughter of John Cremean and wife, who were pioneers of that locality. Levi McBride came with his parents to Allen county in 1838, and settled in German township, near Allentown, where he grew to manhood. After his marriage, he settled in Amanda township where he continued to live the remainder of his life. To him and his wife were born ten children, John, who died at the age of fourteen years; Willis, who resides in Allen county; Clara, the wife of James Baxter, of Amanda township, Allen county; Theodore, who died in infancy; Harvey, of Los Angeles, California; Caddie, the wife of B. S. Brenneman, of Lima, Ohio; Anna, the wife of Mr. Evans; James, who resides in Yuma, Arizona; Dora, who died at the age of twenty-two years, and one who died in infancy.

Mr. Evans is a Republican and has, for many years, taken an active part in public local affairs. He has been a director for three years of the Allen County Mutual Relief Association, of which he is now serving a second term as treasurer and is also a director of the Ohio Mutual Tornado and Windstorm Insurance Association. In his political party, he is held in high esteem and served as a member of the county central committee for about eight years and also four years as a member of the executive committee. He is a member of the Congregational church at Gomer of which his wife is also a member. Because of his upright life and conspicuous success in his private affairs, he has achieved an enviable reputation in his community and is numbered among the substantial citizens of Sugar Creek township. A man of broad experience and exemplary character with an intelligent conception of life, he exerts a marked influence in favor of the best interests of his community.

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#### GEORGE C. DeVORE.

George C. DeVore is recognized as one of the energetic and well-known farmers of Putnam county, who, by his enterprise and improved methods, has contributed, in a material way, to the agricultural advancement of Riley township and the community where he lives. In the course of an honorable career he has been very successful, and enjoys the prestige of a successful man among the representative men of his community. It is eminently proper that attention be called to his achievements and due credit be accorded to his work as a public-spirited citizen.

George C. DeVore was born on May 11, 1867, in Blanchard township,





OLD LOG CABIN HOME OF GEORGE C. DE VORE.



RESIDENCE OF GEORGE C. DE VORE.





GEORGE C. DE VOIRE AND FAMILY.



Putnam county, Ohio, the son of George W. and Mary Jane (Bracy) DeVore. George W. DeVore was born in Carroll county, Ohio, July 4, 1840, the son of William and Fannie (Alfred) DeVore. William DeVore, great-grandfather of George C., was of French parentage, but a native of England, where he spent his youth. Here he was educated and graduated from England's best institutions of learning. He came to America in the early days and settled in Carroll county, Ohio, where he owned a farm. He and his wife were the parents of four children, all born in Carroll county. They were as follow: Mrs. Mary Ann Green, George W., James and Mrs. Elizabeth Richards.

George W. DeVore, the father of George C., lost his parents when he was a small child, probably not more than four or five years of age. After the death of the parents the children were taken to be reared by neighbors. George W. and Elizabeth were reared by Charles Robinson. The family which took the other children, later went West, and George W. did not see his brother and sister again until five years ago, in 1910, after a lapse of sixty-five years. James finally located his brother, George W., when it developed that the former had gone to the Civil War and had been educated at Valparaiso University. Mary Ann had married a man by the name of Green, who was a minister in Iowa, and she had died, about 1904, in that state. George W. DeVore spent his youth and young manhood on the farm of Charles Robinson, in Carroll county, Ohio, and received his early education there. At the age of nineteen, or about 1859, he came to Putnam county, Ohio, and worked for George Kober, in Blanchard township.

Two years after coming to Blanchard township Mr. DeVore was married to Mary Jane Bracy, who was born in Blanchard township, June 30, 1840. She was the daughter of John Bracy, Sr., and wife, whose family history is contained in the sketch of Isaac Bracy, her brother, found elsewhere in this volume. After his marriage George W. DeVore continued, for a time, to work for George Kober, and then started to work for himself, locating north of Gilboa. Shortly after this, in 1863, he enlisted in the Civil War and served until its close, when he returned home and took up farming on forty acres, which his wife had inherited from her father, John Bracy. George W. DeVore was a successful farmer, and managed to acquire about three hundred and fifty acres, eighty acres of which George C. now owns and lives on.

Mrs. George W. DeVore died on March 1, 1903, at the age of sixty-two. She and her husband were the parents of nine children, all of whom

are living. They are as follow: John W., James Isaac, George C., David A., Henry E., Lillie May, Samuel H., Mary Ellen and Jennie Alice.

George C. DeVore was born on a part of the John Bracy, Sr., farm, in the south central part of Blanchard township. This place is now owned by John Bracy, Jr. A year or two later his parents moved to Blanchard township, Hancock county, and here George C. spent his childhood and youth, attending the common schools of that township. After finishing school he continued to help his father on the old home place, until twenty-one years of age, when he began farming for himself. He rented neighboring farms for about four years, and the next year he worked for John Moffat, Sr., by the year. Following this he rented a farm for one-third of the crops.

George C. DeVore was married on August 23, 1893, to Leah Alecta Engle, who was born in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, December 28, 1869, and who is the daughter of Noah and Mary Catherine (Stover) Engle. Mrs. Engle taught school for five years in Putnam county. Her father, Daniel Stover, came to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1831, and was one of the first pioneers of Putnam county. He entered one hundred and sixty acres of land in Riley township, and it was on this farm that Mrs. DeVore was born, as was also her mother.

After his marriage, in 1893, Mr. DeVore rented a farm of eighty acres in the northern part of Riley township, belonging to his father, and the following year, in 1894, he purchased the same farm from his father. At this time the farm had a one-roomed log house and a frame barn. Fifty acres of the land was cleared, and Mr. DeVore has managed to clear the remainder, with the exception of six acres. In addition to other improvements, he has built a modern residence of ten rooms and a bath and other buildings, in keeping with the surroundings. Mr. DeVore has added one hundred and twenty acres to his original holdings, until he now owns one of the finest farms in Putnam county.

To Mr. and Mrs. George C. DeVore two children have been born, Howard Engle, born on August 11, 1894, who is now a junior in the State University, where he is taking the agricultural course. He served on the editorial staff of the agricultural department of the State University, having won his scholarship, a two-year free course, in oratory and examinations from Putnam county, and Mary Laoma, born on November 16, 1898, who is a student in the Pandora high school. She won a free trip to Columbus in domestic science.

Mr. DeVore is a Democrat. He has been a member of the school board

for ten years and president of the board for seven years. He is a member of the Methodist Protestant church, and his wife is also a member of this church. Mr. DeVore is a class leader and chairman of the board of trustees.

George C. DeVore is one of Riley township's and Putnam county's most substantial citizens. He is a wide-awake and enterprising farmer and citizen; a man well and favorably known, whose reputation and integrity are above question.

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JOHN A. LEWIS.

One of Sugar Creek township's agriculturists and stock men, who is deserving of a place in this work, is John A. Lewis, a man of courage and self-reliance and of the utmost integrity of purpose, as a result of which he stands high in the estimation of his neighbors and friends whose interest he has sought to promote while endeavoring to advance his own.

John A. Lewis was born in Butler county, Ohio, on September 5, 1861, and is the son of William and Elizabeth (Jones) Lewis. In his paternal line, he is descended from Welsh ancestry, his grandfather, Ellis Lewis, having been born in 1796, in North Wales, in the Parish of Llanbrynmair, and died in Butler county, Ohio, in the spring of 1879, at the age of eighty-three years. Mary Rowlands, his wife, was also born in North Wales in 1795, and died in 1878, at the age of eighty-three years. Ellis Lewis was reared on a farm in his native land, where his marriage occurred, and to this union was born one child, Evan, before the family came to America. Their immigration occurred in 1829, passage being taken on a sailing ship, which required about three months in making the journey across the Atlantic. Dense fogs interfered seriously with the navigation of the vessel and it is noteworthy that it was his grandmother who first discovered the much-sought land-mark which guided them safely to harbor. After landing in America, they came directly to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where Ellis Lewis engaged in glass blowing, the family remaining in that city for a few years. There William, the father of John A., was born, and when he was about seven or eight years of age, the family moved to Butler county, Ohio, making the trip in a covered wagon, as was common in those days. Ellis Lewis bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Butler county, of which only a few acres had been cleared, and on it, he erected a two-story, four-roomed log cabin and a log barn where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, rearing their family of seven children, four boys and three girls, all of

whom grew to maturity. These children were Evan, William, Mary Ann, Margaret, Martha, David and Richard, all now deceased, with the exception of Martha.

William Lewis, the father of John A., spent his boyhood days in Butler county and there, in 1858, at the age of twenty-nine years, he was married to Elizabeth Jones, who was also a native of North Wales, born on March 14, 1832. She came to America, about 1856, with her brother, Israel, and sister, Leah, all of whom are now deceased. After William Lewis's marriage, he took charge of his father's farm for several years and then entered upon agricultural pursuits on his own account. His wife, Elizabeth, died on August 28, 1868, two of her sisters also dying within a few days of that time. To William and Elizabeth Lewis were born four children, John A., the immediate subject of this sketch; Mary, the wife of J. B. Edwards; David, who died at the age of two years, and one daughter who died when two weeks old. William Lewis continued his occupation of farming in Butler county until within about seven years of his death, when he came to Putnam county and made his home with his daughter, Mary, until his death, which occurred on April 10, 1900.

John A. Lewis spent his childhood years under the parental roof and received his education in the common schools. At the early age of fifteen years, he began to take up life's burdens on his own account, working on neighboring farms in the county, and in testimony of his faithfulness and efficiency, it is noteworthy that during all the years of his employment, he worked for but three men. About the time he attained his majority, Mr. Lewis came to Allen county, where he remained for three years, and then for two years was employed as clerk in a store in Vaughnsville. After his marriage, in 1889, he located on eighty acres of land, two miles west of Vaughnsville, a part of the Williams estate, and here he has since remained, giving his undivided attention to his farming operations, in which he has won well-deserved success. At the time he took possession of the land, about thirty-five acres were cleared and the improvements consisted of a six-room frame house. Mr. Lewis proceeded to clear the remainder of the land, except about fourteen acres, and has also done a large amount of tiling and drainage. He has added to his residence, making it a commodious and well-arranged house and, in the spring of 1894, built a large barn with modern conveniences, besides other buildings in keeping with the surroundings. Mr. Lewis bought forty acres adjoining his farm on the west in 1892, which gives him a total acreage of one hundred and twenty acres, comprising one of the choice farms of the township. Up-to-date in his ideas and progressive

in his methods, Mr. Lewis has won an enviable reputation as an enterprising farmer and is numbered among the influential men of his community.

John A. Lewis was married on January 16, 1889, to Kate Williams, who was born in Licking county, Ohio, on October 14, 1863, the daughter of David L. and Mary Williams. When about three years of age, she was brought by her parents to Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, where she lived until her marriage to Mr. Lewis. To John A. and Kate (Williams) Lewis have been born two children, Mary Elizabeth, on May 8, 1890, and David William, July 20, 1892.

John A. Lewis is a stanch Republican and has taken an important part in local public affairs, having served as township assessor from 1905 to 1907, and in other ways evidencing an interest in the advancement of his community. He is a member of Vaughnsville Lodge No. 711, Knights of Pythias, of which he has been master of finance for the past fourteen years. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis are members of the Congregational church, to which they give their earnest support. Mr. Lewis is a close observer of modern agricultural methods and a student, at all times, of whatever pertains to his chosen life work, and he has, therefore, met with encouraging success all along the line and taken his place among the leading agriculturists of the community, which is noted for its fine farms and progressive husbandmen.

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#### IGNATIUS RIEMAN.

Union township, in Putnam county, is noted for the substantial character of the farmers which compose the greater part of its sterling citizenship. Not only in the main are these farmers men of the most enterprising and energetic type, but they are firm believers in the efficacy of many of the newer methods of farming which in recent years practically have revolutionized the ancient science of agriculture, in consequence of which they are prospering probably beyond what would have been thought possible, even in the wildest flights of fancy indulged in by their forefathers, the stalwart men who cleared the forests, making possible the wonderful development of this favored region, a measure of development which places this county in the forefront of all that inspiring galaxy of counties which makes up the noble commonwealth of Ohio. These farmers are not only good agriculturists, bringing to the tillage of the soil the best of their intelligently-directed industry, but they are ardent home-livers, which homes in this section

will compare well with those of any section in the Union, in point of comfort and genial hospitality. Among the well-known and prosperous farmers of Union township is Ignatius Rieman, a member of one of Putnam county's oldest and most respected families, to whom the reviewer here calls the attention of the reader.

Ignatius Rieman was born on a farm in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, on December 6, 1869, a son of Frank, Sr., and Mary (Karloff) Rieman, both of whom were members of old and well-known families in this county. The genealogy of the Rieman family is set out at length in the biographical sketch relating to Frank Rieman, Sr., father of the immediate subject of this sketch, which the reader will find presented elsewhere in this volume.

Ignatius Rieman was reared on his father's farm and received his education in the schools of Greensburg township, remaining at home until his marriage, in 1897, in which year he moved upon an eighty-acre farm in the same township, purchased from his father. He lived on this place for five years, at the end of which time he moved to his present farm in section 33 in Union township, where he has lived ever since. Upon entering upon this farm he had but eighty acres, but as his affairs prospered, he prepared to enlarge his holdings, and in 1911 bought an additional forty acres, this addition giving him a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which he has brought to a high state of cultivation, and upon which he has erected a fine type of buildings, the latter being regarded as among the neatest and best-kept in that part of the county. In other respects, also, Mr. Rieman has improved his place and demonstrated that he is a good farmer.

On June 1, 1897, Ignatius Rieman was united in marriage with Bernadina Smith, daughter of Joseph and Theresa (Kahle) Smith, members of two of Putnam county's oldest and most influential families, for many years prominent residents of Union township, the former of whom is still living on his farm of two hundred and nineteen acres in that township. Mrs. Smith died on November 25, 1914.

To Joseph and Theresa (Kahle) Smith were born children, in order of their birth as follow: Mary, who married Joseph Warnecke, a well-known farmer of Union township, this county, to which union were born nine children, eight of whom are still living; Bernadina, who married Mr. Rieman; Helena married Henry Erhart and has one child; Amelia, who married Joseph Missler, of Ottawa, this county, and has three children, and Francis, deceased, who married Harry Nienberg, of the town of Glandorf.

To Ignatius and Bernadina (Smith) Rieman were born three children,



two of whom died in infancy, the survivor, Cletus, was born on March 17, 1904, now being a student in St. Michael's parochial school at Kalida, Ignatius Rieman and wife being devoted members of this parish and active in its various good works. Mr. Rieman, for seven years, was a trustee of St. Michael's church, to the affairs of which he gave his most intelligent attention, his service having proven of no small value to that parish. He is an active member of the Knights of Columbus and is a member of St. Joseph's Benevolent Society and Catholic Knights of Ohio, in the affairs of which organizations he is deeply interested.

Mr. Rieman is a good farmer and a good citizen in whom his neighbors repose the utmost confidence, and both he and Mrs. Rieman are held in the highest regard throughout that whole community.

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#### WALTER E. WILLIAMS.

The occupation of farming, to which all of the active life of Walter E. Williams, a well-known farmer of Sugar Creek township, has been devoted is the oldest pursuit for a livelihood known to mankind. It is the one which will ever be the most independent. The Williams family have long been connected with the progress and prosperity of Putnam county, of which Walter E. Williams is a native and where, in fact, he has spent all of his life. While primarily attending to his own farming interests, his life has been devoted somewhat to the interest of his neighbors and fellow citizens. Mr. Williams has been untiring in his efforts to inspire a proper respect for law and order and he has been ready at all times to lend his aid toward uplifting the civic and social spirit of the community where he has lived.

Walter E. Williams was born in Sugar Creek township, on November 26, 1878. He is the son of David L. and Mary Elizabeth (Griffith) Williams, whose family history is to be found in the sketch of John D. Williams, a brother of Walter E., on another page in this volume. Walter E. was born on the old homestead of his father, one mile south of Vaughnsville, where he spent his childhood and youth. He first attended the old Michael district school and later the public school of Vaughnsville. After finishing school, he continued to help his father on the old home farm and remained here until his marriage.

Walter E. Williams was married on March 19, 1902, at the age of twenty-three, to Ellen Garner, the daughter of James W. and Lydia (Slusser)

Garner. She was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, on March 4, 1876. The complete family history of Mrs. Williams is to be found in the sketch of J. H. Miller, whose wife, Mrs. Carrie Miller, is a sister of Mrs. Williams and which history is to be found elsewhere in this volume. To Walter E. and Ellen (Garner) Williams two children have been born. The first on August 3, 1903, died shortly after birth; the second, Leland L., July 27, 1904. Mrs. Williams died on August 8, 1904. She was a member of the Christian church and a devoted and faithful wife and mother.

Mr. Williams was married on September 25, 1905, to Sicily Elizabeth Garner, a second cousin to the first Mrs. Williams. She was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, on December 14, 1876, and is the daughter of Rev. George B. and Sarah Anna (Webb) Garner, the former a native of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, born on September 18, 1850, and the latter born on October 18, 1851, at Pittsfield, Lorain county, Ohio. Rev. George B. Garner was reared and educated in Putnam county and here entered the ministry. He was twice pastor of the Christian church at Vaughnsville, which charge he filled with rare credit. He is now attached to the Northwestern Ohio Christian conference and presides over the Christian church at Berkey, Ohio. Rev. George B. and Sarah A. (Webb) Garner had five children, Joseph Franklin, born on June 9, 1874; Sicily Elizabeth, the wife of Mr. Williams; Zoe and Zella, twins, July 28, 1878, died in infancy; and Mrs. Blanche Heffner, November 20, 1880. Mrs. Williams's mother, Sarah Anna Garner, died September 17, 1902.

Walter E. Williams has continued to live on the old home place, where he was born and where he now resides. After his first marriage, he took charge of the home farm. It consisted of one hundred and twenty acres, which his father bequeathed to him and to which he has added forty acres since his father's death. Mr. Williams has always done general farming and has engaged, to a limited extent, in raising thoroughbred Shorthorn Durham cattle. He has also fed a considerable number of cattle for the market.

To Walter E. and Sicily E. (Garner) Williams, his second wife, six children have been born, Garner L., on August 13, 1906; Anna Marion, May 1, 1908; Maurice W., February 3, 1910, died on August 8, 1912; Arthur L., October 15, 1911; Joseph F., May 27, 1913; and Charlotte B., March 28, 1915.

Walter E. Williams is a member of the Christian church at Vaughnsville and is assistant superintendent of the Sunday school. Mrs. Williams is a member of the First Christian church at Lima, Ohio, and was a charter member of that church. Mr. Williams is a member of Knights of Pythias

Lodge No. 711, at Vaughnsville. He is a Republican, he having served as township assessor from 1910 to 1912, inclusive. Mr. Williams is one of Sugar Creek township's and Putnam county's clean-cut and progressive young farmers. He is well liked and favorably known throughout this section of Ohio and enjoys the respect and confidence of a large circle of friends and acquaintances. From any standpoint, he is a farmer who is thoroughly entitled to representation in a volume of this character.

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### THOMAS S. WILLIAMS.

Thomas S. Williams, long one of the leading farmers and stock men of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, is noted for his strong individuality, breadth of wisdom and indomitable perseverance. He used wisely and well the talents with which he was endowed, and has directed his efforts along the lines pointed out by good judgment and discrimination. Mr. Williams is possessed of a rare measure of native sagacity, fidelity to purpose and sincerity in all the relations of life. He belongs to one of the old-time families of Putnam county, and from many standpoints is entitled to rank as one of its representative citizens.

Thomas S. Williams was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, on the old homestead of his father, south of Vaughnsville, on January 16, 1867. He is the son of David L. and Mary (Griffiths) Williams. David L. Williams was born in North Wales, on January 16, 1832, and died on the old Williams homestead, south of Vaughnsville, on February 6, 1908, at the ripe old age of seventy-six years and eight months. He was the son of Hugh and Catherine (Lloyd) Williams, both natives of North Wales. Hugh Williams was a quarryman and was killed as the result of a blast in a stone quarry. His death occurred when David L. Williams, father of Thomas S., was a mere lad. His wife, who before her marriage was Catherine Lloyd, survived him a few years. They had four children, two sons and two daughters, the eldest of whom was David L., the father of Thomas S.

David L. Williams spent his youth in Wales and, while a lad, he had the misfortune to receive an injury to one of his eyes, which nearly resulted in the loss of the eye. He also suffered an injury to his knee which caused him to adopt the trade of a shoemaker. Fortunately, the injured knee grew better in later years and he then gave up his work as a shoemaker. David L. Williams received a limited education in his native country, but he later

improved himself by home study and became a well-informed man. He was very fond of music in which he was quite proficient. For many years he was the leader of the choir in the Vaughnsville Congregational church. Mr. Williams helped to organize this church and was a charter member. When he was twenty-four years of age, about 1856, he came to America and located first at Rome, New York, where he was employed for about a year on a farm. He then came to Licking county, Ohio, where he located at Newark, and resumed farming. It was a few years later, February 1, 1860, that he was married at the age of twenty-eight, to Mary Griffiths, who was born in South Wales, September 17, 1835, and who was the daughter of William T. and Charlotte (Jones) Griffiths. She came to America with her parents when a very small child. They settled in Licking county where they were farmers, and it was here that they spent the remainder of their lives. There were nine children, seven daughters and two sons, born to Mrs. David Williams' parents, of whom she was the third child.

After his marriage, David L. Williams, who owned a small farm in Licking county, Ohio, continued to farm there for about six years. In the spring of 1866, he moved to Putnam county, settling in Sugar Creek township, one mile south of Vaughnsville, where he bought eighty acres of land and, a little later, added forty acres more to his original farm. This farm was pretty well improved by that time. It had a large frame house and barn, and had about sixty acres cleared. David L. Williams was a very successful farmer, who came to America a poor boy and by dint of energy and perseverance accumulated about five hundred and sixty acres of land. He was a Republican in politics, originally, but in later years became a Democrat. He was one of Putnam county's most substantial citizens, a devout Christian and a man of especially high ideals and of unquestionable integrity. Mrs. Mary (Griffiths) Williams was also a member of the Congregational church. She was a devoted wife and loving mother and a woman admired by her neighbors. She died two years prior to the death of her husband, May 19, 1907. They had ten children, seven sons and three daughters, all of whom lived to maturity. They are as follow: William G., on November 15, 1860; John D., March 10, 1862; Catherine, October 14, 1863; Charlotte, August 7, 1865, and died at the age of twenty-three years in July, 1888; Thomas S., the subject of this sketch, January 16, 1867; David L., December 21, 1869; Henry R., November 5, 1871; Hugh, November 19, 1873; Mary, January 30, 1876; and Walter E., November 26, 1878. All of these children married except Charlotte.

Thomas S. Williams was born on January 16, 1867. He spent his childhood and youth on his father's farm. He attended the old Michael district

school and, after finishing the common schools, continued to help his father on the old home place, where he remained until twenty-three years of age or until the time of his marriage.

Thomas S. Williams was married on February 19, 1890, to Mary J. Edwards, who was born on the homestead of her father, August 23, 1865, in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio. She was the daughter of Josiah and Susan (Breese) Edwards. Josiah Edwards was born in Montgomeryshire, North Wales, on May 30, 1826, and was the son of Josiah, Sr., and Margaret (Jones) Edwards. Josiah Edwards, Sr., was a farmer by occupation and lived and died in Wales. Josiah Edwards, Jr., and wife and one child came to America in 1855, settling first in Utica, New York, where he was employed on a dairy farm. The following fall, in 1855, they came to Allen county, Ohio, and settled at Gomer. His first employment was with Griffith John, a contractor who built the Pennsylvania railroad from Lima to Elida. The following summer he rented a farm on "Calico Ridge" in Sugar Creek township, Allen county. Here he lived for about seven years when he moved in 1862 to Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, and settled on eighty acres, one and one-half miles southwest of Vaughnsville on the old Ridge road. This farm he bought in its virgin state, only an acre or two being cleared. Josiah Edwards proceeded to clear and drain his land and improve it and succeeded in getting it all under cultivation except about eight acres. He built a large frame house in 1873, consisting of ten rooms, and a large frame barn in 1879. He was always engaged in general farming. He was a very successful farmer and attributed his success mostly to raising corn and hogs. He was also successful in raising good horses.

Josiah Edwards, Jr., enlisted in the One Hundred and Fifty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, near the close of the Civil War. He was a "hundred days" soldier, having been mustered in, May 13, 1864, at Camp Chase, Ohio, and mustered out on August 27, 1864. The regiment was first stationed at Forts Sumpter, Mansfield and Simmons. During the active operations of the rebels against Washington, D. C., on July 11 and 12 the larger part of the regiment was under fire. Several of the companies were in the forts which were engaged in the battle.

Josiah and Susan (Breese) Edwards had one child before coming to America. This child, John, who was but four years old when his parents came to Allen county, died the day after their arrival at Gomer. The parents came by canal boat from Utica, New York, to Buffalo, and thence by steamer to Cleveland and Toledo on Lake Erie. Then they followed the Miami and Erie canal from Toledo to Delphos and walked from this place to Gomer. There were five children born to Josiah and Susan (Breese)

Edwards, John, born in Wales, January 21, 1851, died at Gomer, November 8, 1855; Margaret, the second child was the deceased wife of B. F. Thomas; Joseph B. is the subject of a personal sketch in this volume; Mary married Mr. William, the subject of this sketch; John W. was the fifth child. Josiah Edwards died on August 17, 1897, at the ripe old age of seventy-one years. He was a member of the Gomer Congregational church and a deacon of this church for many years. His wife also was a member. He was a Republican in politics, a devout Christian and a man of high ideals.

After his marriage, Thomas S. Williams was employed during the first summer on neighboring farms. The following spring he and his wife moved to the old James Clevenger farm just south of his father's old homestead. He rented a part of the farm from his father and here remained for about two years. He then traded a forty acre farm in Allen county, which he received from his father, for sixty-seven acres, one and one-half miles west of Vaughnsville on the Valley road. In this transaction Mr. Williams paid the difference in money between the forty and sixty-seven acres. This new farm had an old plank house of four rooms and a frame barn. On January 24, 1895, this house was destroyed by fire. In this fire Mr. Williams and wife lost their two children, David and Minnie, four and one-half and one and one-half years, respectively. It is an event that will live forever in their memories as the greatest tragedy of their lives. David was born on November 23, 1890, and Minnie on June 23, 1894, both of whom died on January 24, 1895. After this, Mabel was born on June 1, 1896; John Walter, April 24, 1899; Homer, November 24, 1903, and Robert Earnest was born on April 24, 1907.

Thomas S. Williams has continued to live on the present farm since moving here. He has greatly improved it by the erection of a commodious eight-room residence which is nicely situated. In addition to this, he has added to his farm and erected other buildings in keeping with the surroundings. Mr. Williams has been successful in raising wheat, but of late years he has been devoting his attention to corn and hogs, and has been very successful.

Thomas S. Williams and wife are members of the Vaughnsville Congregational church. Their two eldest children, Mabel and John Walter, are also members of this church. Mabel is a senior in the Vaughnsville high school, a member of the class of 1916. Thomas S. Williams is one of Sugar Creek township's and Putnam county's substantial citizens and well and favorably known in this section of Putnam county and is entitled to representation in this volume.

## MATHIAS J. KERNER.

Among the well-known and popular citizens of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, is he whose name heads this sketch. Mr. Kerner is of a sociable nature, who readily wins friends and retains them by virtue of his sincere friendliness and generous disposition. He is considered one of the most up-to-date farmers of the community, having a splendid equipment for his chosen life work, and the excellent condition of the residence and other buildings bespeak success in his undertaking.

Mathias J. Kerner is a native of this county, having been born on a farm in section 22 of Greensburg township on April 6, 1874. He is a son of Joseph and Mary (Schaeffer) Kerner and is the eldest of their family. The other children are Elizabeth, Caroline, deceased; Amalia Kathrina, Mary Theresa, Mary Ann, John Edward and Rosa. Joseph Kerner, father of our subject, is a son of Mathias and Elizabeth Kerner, who were among the early settlers of this county. The father was a native of Germany and the mother was from Pennsylvania. The parents were married on November 6, 1872, and after marriage continued to live on the farm formerly owned by Joseph Kerner's father, and on that farm he has lived almost his entire life. Mary Schaeffer, mother of Mathias J. Kerner, was the daughter of Henry and Agnes (Hoffman) Schaeffer, both of whom were natives of Germany, coming from Hanover, where they were married, and shortly after marriage left for this country. After living on one or two different places they finally settled in Glandorf, this county. They were the parents of three children, John, Clara and Mary.

Mathias J. Kerner attended the district schools near his home when a boy and in young manhood worked with his father on the home farm and for twenty-one years followed the occupation of a thresherman. He was united in marriage on October 21, 1896, to Mary Merschman, daughter of John and Clara Merschman, both natives of this county, where they still reside. Mrs. Kerner is one of a family of eleven children, namely: Frank, Mary, Amelia, William, deceased; Veronica, Lucy, Emma, Helena, Harry, deceased; John and Petronella. John Merschman, father of Mrs. Kerner, is a son of Barney and Katherine (Hageman) Merschman, both natives of Germany, who came to this county at a comparatively early date in its history, and settled on a farm, where they lived for many years. Mrs. Kerner's mother is a daughter of Joseph and Gertrude Gattman, also natives of Germany, who lived in this county for many years and were accounted among the worthy residents thereof.

Mathias J. Kerner and wife have an interesting family of five children, the eldest of whom is their daughter Eleanore, born on March 13, 1898; Harry, August 26, 1900, assists the father in the work of the farm; Loretta, November 22, 1902; Emma, November 15, 1906, and Victor, December 26, 1912. All of the children still remain under the parental roof. Mr. Kerner has a well-kept farm of forty acres and is one of the progressive men of the community. Mrs. Kerner is a charming and intelligent woman and the entire family is well liked by a large circle of friends. Their pleasant home is the center of a delightful spirit of friendliness, which includes both well established friend and stranger alike.

The entire family are communicants of the St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf, and Mr. Kerner holds his fraternal affiliation with the Knights of Columbus, while in politics he votes the Democratic ticket.

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#### JAMES H. MILLER.

Faith to fact in the analyzation of the character of a citizen of the type of James H. Miller, a well-known successful farmer in Sugar Creek township, is always required to make a biographical sketch interesting to those who have at heart the good name of the community honored by his residence, because it is the honorable reputation of the man of standing and affairs more than any other consideration that gives character and stability to the body politic. While advancing his individual interest, he has never lost sight of his obligation to the community in general, and for many years he has held a high place in popular confidence and esteem.

James H. Miller was born in Sugar Creek township on September 9, 1866, the son of Jacob W. and Catherine (Best) Miller, for personal mention of whom the reader is referred to the subject's brother, George W. Miller, elsewhere in this volume.

James H. Miller was reared on the paternal homestead and there spent his youth and young manhood, attending to the duties of the farm and securing his education in the schools of the neighborhood. In addition to the ordinary duties he also applied himself to the clearing of about sixty acres of the home farm. He has spent practically his entire life here, and has earned a high reputation among those who know him because of his success as a farmer and because of his high standing as a citizen in private life. He is now the owner of one hundred acres of land considered as good as any in Putnam county, and his place is improved with a substantial eleven-



room residence, finely situated, located one-eighth of a mile south of the Ridge road and one and three-quarter miles east of Vaughnsville. A large barn, cattle shed and other buildings go to make up the group of structures which make his farm one of the up-to-date and pleasing views of the community. In the operation of his farm Mr. Miller has not specialized along any one line, but has followed a general system of farming, raising such crops as are common to this locality. He has also given considerable attention to the breeding of Double Standard Pure-bred Polled Durham cattle, of which he has a herd of twenty head. For a number of years he has been a feeder of cattle for the market.

James H. Miller was married on May 18, 1914, to Carrie Garner, who was born in Sugar Creek township on March 10, 1880, the daughter of James W. and Lydia Ann (Slusser) Garner. James Garner was born in Virginia on July 3, 1837, and was the son of William and Elizabeth (Stone) Garner, also natives of Virginia. They came to Ohio in an early day, settling in Sugar Creek township, one mile northeast of Vaughnsville. At the outbreak of the Civil War James Garner proved his patriotism by enlisting as a private in the Fifty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which command was assigned to the western army and, with his regiment, Mr. Garner took part in many of the most arduous campaigns and battles of that great struggle, including the memorable march to the sea, with its attendant skirmishes and conflicts. At the conclusion of hostilities Mr. Garner returned home and was married to Lydia Ann Slusser, after which he settled on a farm one and three-quarter miles east of Vaughnsville, where he remained until his last years, which were spent on the farm now owned by George W. Miller, where his death occurred on November 29, 1907. His wife, Lydia Ann Slusser, was born in Shelby county, Ohio, on February 8, 1847, the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Abbot) Slusser. She came to Putnam county with her parents when only a child, the family settling one and one-half miles east of Vaughnsville on the Ridge road. To these parents were born ten children, Nora Belle on August 12, 1867, died on December 16, 1893; Eliza Ann, September 16, 1869; Viola May, September 4, 1871; James Madison, October 25, 1873; Della Jane, March 22, 1876; Ella Leora, February 8, 1878, died on August 9, 1904; Susan Carrie, November 10, 1880; Charles Sherman, May 21, 1882; Mary Elizabeth, January 25, 1886, and an infant son, who died at birth. Lydia Ann (Slusser) Garner died on July 27, 1912.

In his political views Mr. Miller gives his support to the Democratic party, though too busy with his own affairs to give much attention to matters

of public importance. His religious connections are with the Christian church, of which his wife is also a member. The testimony is ample that Mr. Miller is a good citizen in the full sense of the term and worthy of honor and public trust, ever doing worthily and well whatever he puts his hand to do.

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### JOHN A. SCHUTZ.

Success in life comes to the deserver. It is an axiom demonstrated by all human experience that a man gets out of this life what he puts into it, with a reasonable interest on the investment. The individual who inherits a large estate and adds nothing to his fortune cannot be called a successful man. He that falls heir to a large fortune and increases its value, is successful in proportion to the amount he adds to his possession. But the man who starts in the world unaided and, by sheer force of will, controlled by correct principles, forges ahead, and at length reaches a position of honor among his fellow-citizens, achieves success such as representatives of the two former classes cannot understand nor appreciate. To a considerable extent, the subject of this sketch is a creditable representative of the class last named, a class which has furnished much of the bone and sinew of the country, and has added to the stability of our government and its institutions.

John A. Schutz was born on November 30, 1861, in Berne, Switzerland. He was the son of Jacob and Anna (Gruber) Schutz. Jacob Schutz was born in April, 1829, in Berne, Switzerland, the son of Jacob and Elizabeth Schutz. Jacob Schutz, Sr., and his wife were farmers and reared a large family. He was a cheesemaker.

Jacob Schutz, Jr., moved from the canton of Berne to the canton of Neuchatel, Switzerland, when John A. was only one and one-half years old. This county is along the French border, and here his parents again took up farming. John A. Schutz attended the schools in his neighborhood until he was thirteen years old. For three years afterward he attended the night school. He helped his father until he was twenty-one years of age and then came to America in 1883, direct to Pandora, Ohio. Jacob Schutz, Jr., and wife were the parents of fourteen children—Elizabeth, Jacob, Gottfried, deceased; Albert, John A., Mary, deceased; Andrew, deceased; Anna, Amiel and Louisa. Four children died in infancy.

Jacob Schutz, Jr., and wife came to America and settled in Allen



JOHN A. SCHILTZ AND FAMILY.



county, Ohio, in 1884. Four years later they moved to Tippecanoe county, ten miles southeast of Lafayette, Indiana, and here he died about seven or eight years later, in 1895. His wife then returned to Ohio and lived with her son, John A. Schutz, and her daughter, Louisa, until her death, in October, 1906.

John A. Schutz was twenty-one years of age when he arrived in America, April 1, 1883. He came directly to Putnam county, and worked in the stone quarries in that district. He followed other odd jobs for about three years and then learned the carpenter trade, which he followed for two years. At the age of twenty-six Mr. Schutz had saved considerable money.

At this time, May 24, 1887, John A. Schutz was married to Mary Bixler, who was born on the old Bixler homestead, June 22, 1860. She was the daughter of Jacob and Barbara (Welty) Bixler, the former of whom was born in Wayne county on June 4, 1831, and the latter in Wayne county on April 14, 1832. Jacob Bixler was the son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Kammerman) Bixler, both of whom were natives of Switzerland, the former of whom was born in 1801 and the latter on September 28, 1797. They emigrated to America on the Danish ship "Tetes," whose voyage took forty-four days to cross the water. Mrs. Bixler was the daughter of John and Barbara (Lugibihl) Welty, the former a native of Switzerland and the latter a native of France. She came to America in 1821. Jacob Bixler and wife had two children, Sarah, who married Albert Schutz, and Mary, who married John A. Schutz.

Jacob Bixler, Sr., started for America on May 14, 1821, and landed in July of that year at New York City, and later became a pioneer of Putnam county. Jacob Bixler and wife were the parents of the following children: Anna, who died in infancy; Abraham, deceased; Barbara, Peter, Christian, John, Elizabeth, Jacob Jr., Anna, Abraham, Daniel, deceased; Daniel, Catherine, deceased; Mary and David, only two of whom are living.

John Welty was born on November 14, 1797, a native of Switzerland. He came to America in 1824 and settled in Wayne county, Ohio. Later came Barbara (Lugibihl) Welty, his wife, who was born in February, 1807, and who died on November 4, 1883. She came with her parents to America in 1825, when she met and married John Welty in Wayne county. To them were born nine children—Christian, Catherine, Barbara, Peter, Anna, Magdalena, May, Fannie and John, who died in infancy, only two of whom are living at this time.

After Mr. Schutz's marriage he rented the old Bixler homestead, one and

one-half miles east of Pandora, which he later bought. At this time it comprised eighty acres, to which Mr. Schutz later added twenty acres, and then he purchased the old John Suter farm of one hundred acres, on which he now lives. Mr. Schutz has always done general farming, and during recent years has made a specialty of feeding cattle and hogs.

Mr. Schutz purchased a lumber yard and planing mill at Pandora about 1902, where he moved on account of his wife's failing health. He operated this mill for five years, and then sold out and returned to the farm. In addition to his other interests, Mr. Schutz is a stockholder in the Farmers' Banking Company at Pandora.

Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Schutz—Martha, who died in infancy; Lavina, who is the wife of Walter Geiger and lives on the old home place; Hiram, who lives with his sister, Lavina; Elmer, who is unmarried and a student in Otterbein University; Hula, who is unmarried and at home, and Matilda, who died in infancy.

John A. Schutz has been a member of the Putnam county fair board for eight years. He is a Democrat and has served his township as trustee for twelve years. He and his wife are members of the Grace Mennonite church. John A. Schutz is one of the most substantial citizens of this community. He is a man of resolute determination and high ideals, and enjoys the entire confidence of the people who live in his community. No better evidence of this can be cited than the long term which he has served the people of Riley township as trustee, the duties of which office Mr. Schutz has discharged to the entire satisfaction of his constituents.

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#### CHARLES RHODES.

One of the well-known farmers of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, who has long been prominent in the agricultural life of this county, is Charles Rhodes, a native of Sugar Creek township and the grandson of one of the pioneer settlers of this county. The Rhodes family has long been connected with the history of Sugar Creek township and in all of these years have gained for themselves an enviable reputation for sobriety, intelligence and congeniality. They have long been known for their success in agricultural affairs and for the large measure which they have contributed to the progress and prosperity of this section of Putnam county.

Charles Rhodes was born on September 30, 1868, in Sugar Creek town-

ship, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of James and Elizabeth (Guffy) Rhodes, the former of whom was born in Franklin county, Ohio, March 12, 1828, and who died on October 12, 1914. James Rhodes was the son of Peter and Catherine (Huffman) Rhodes. Peter Rhodes came to Putnam county in 1834 and entered land from the government on Hog creek in the western part of Sugar Creek township, where he afterward operated a grist-mill on the banks of Hog creek. He also operated a store in the early days, was one of Putnam county's first citizens and passed through all of the pioneer experiences of his time. He died while still a comparatively young man. His wife survived him only a short time. They had eight children, six sons and two daughters, John, Jacob, James, William, George, Mary, Elizabeth and Joseph, who died in childhood. James Rhodes, the father of Charles, was only four years old when he came with his parents to Putnam county. He spent his childhood on the old Rhodes homestead and here grew to manhood. When he was thirty-two years of age, he was married on May 6, 1860, to Elizabeth Guffy, who was born in Sugar Creek township, August 20, 1840, and who was the daughter of William and Mary Ann (Jacobs) Guffy. William Guffy was born on November 22, 1806, in Franklin county, Ohio, and was the son of John and Nancy (Pendleton) Guffy. John and Nancy Guffy were natives of Kentucky. Henry Guffy, the father of John, came with two brothers from Ireland and settled in Kentucky at a very early date. He was killed by the Indians. John Guffy had one full brother, one full sister and five half-brothers and sisters. Of these, the full brother, Henry Guffy, was killed by the Indians near Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1812 or 1813. John Guffy was a young man when he came to Ohio with his mother and step-father, who settled in Franklin county. John was married there and lived on leased land. He came to Putnam county in 1829 and entered a tract of land in Sugar Creek township. He did not come permanently to reside, however, until 1831, when he entered additional land, making a total of three hundred and four acres, upon which he made his home until his death, July 1, 1874. Of his land, forty acres were obtained with a warrant granted him for services in the War of 1812. This tract was increased to three hundred and four acres, and he owned, besides, one hundred and twenty acres in Kansas. John and Nancy Guffy were the parents of the following children: Isaac and William, twins, of whom Isaac died in Kansas in 1885; Margaret, deceased, who married Samuel Parker; Henry, deceased; Jane, who married James McKinley; Joseph, who was killed by a falling tree in 1835; Aquilla, who died leaving a family of six children; Sarah, who married Jacob Rhodes; Nelson, who lives in Michigan; and Elizabeth, who married Will-

iam McLain. William, one of the twins, married Mary Ann Jacobs and they have the following children, Samuel, Elizabeth, Alexander, Anetta, George, James, Sarah and Alice. Mary Ann Guffy died on November 8, 1864.

James Rhodes went to California in 1850 and worked in the gold mines for four years. Later, he returned to Putnam county and, after six years was married and settled on a part of the homestead of his father, just north of Rimer, in Sugar Creek township, where he lived the remainder of his life, with the exception of three years which he spent in Columbus Grove. He died on the old home place on October 12, 1914, at the ripe old age of eighty-six years. He was a member of the Ottawa River Christian church and a Republican in politics.

James and Elizabeth (Guff) Rhodes had five sons, Francisco, who died at the age of eighteen months; William, who married Mary Blosser and lives in Sugar creek township; Frank, who lives in Texas; Charles, the subject of this sketch; and James, who died in infancy.

Charles Rhodes, who was born on the old homestead where he spent his childhood and youth, has resided on the farm since that time. He attended the Rimer district school, and after finishing school, he continued to help his father on the home place. At the age of nineteen years, he took charge of the place and at the age of twenty-seven he was married on February 12, 1896, to Elizabeth Stevick, who was born in Allen county, in Marion township, December 3, 1868. She was the daughter of Jacob and Mary (Thomas) Stevick.

Jacob Stevick was born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, December 7, 1843, and was of German descent. His wife, Mary Thomas, was born in North Wales, on July 13, 1840, and was the daughter of John W. and Mary (Arthur) Thomas. She came to America with her parents when five years old and spent the remainder of her life in Allen county. She died in July, 1872, and Jacob Stevick died in February, 1906, at the age of sixty-six years. He and his wife had five children, three sons and two daughters, John, who married Emma Foote; Elizabeth, the wife of Mr. Rhodes; William, who died at the age of five years; Margaret, who is the wife of P. N. Patton; and Archibald, who died in infancy.

After Charles Rhodes was married, he continued to farm the old home place, which has been his residence since that time. He has always done general farming and has been very successful. Mr. Rhodes' farm has a seven-room, modern residence, a commodious barn and other outbuildings which are neatly kept. He owns fifty-five acres and, with his brother William, farms one hundred and eighteen acres.



Charles Rhodes attends the Ottawa River Christian church of which Mrs. Rhodes is a member. He is a Republican. He is a member of Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 711, of Vaughnsville. He is one of Sugar Creek township's well-known and substantial farmers. He is a clean-cut and progressive citizen and, from every standpoint, is highly deserving of representation in this volume.

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#### WILLIAM D. RHODES.

The success of men in business, farming or, in fact, any other vocation, depends upon many things, but among the things upon which it depends is character in the individual. The relations of life between farmers and business men demand confidence, and where that is lacking business relations of the farmer end. In every community some men are known for their upright lives, common sense and moral worth. Neighbors and acquaintances respect them and the younger generation heed their example. They win their way as a consequence of untiring energy and correct principles and through proper application hold the respect of their fellow-men. Among the well-known farmers of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, who has won in the battles of life by sheer merit is William D. Rhodes. Mr. Rhodes belongs to one of the pioneer families of Putnam county, and his name is one that has been honored for several generations in the history of this county.

William D. Rhodes was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, on August 30, 1861. He is the son of James W. and Elizabeth (Guffy) Rhodes. James Rhodes was born in Franklin county, Ohio, on March 12, 1828, and died on October 12, 1914. He was the son of Peter and Catherine (Huffman) Rhodes. Peter Rhodes came to Putnam county in 1834 and entered land from the government on Hog creek, in the western part of Sugar Creek township. He established a grist mill on the banks of Hog creek, and also operated a store in the early days. He was one of Putnam county's pioneer citizens and passed through all of the pioneer experiences of the day. He died when still comparatively a young man. His wife survived him only a short time. They had eight children, six sons and two daughters, John, Jacob, James, William, George, Mary Elizabeth and Joseph, who died in childhood.

James Rhodes was only four years old when he came with his parents to Putnam county. He spent his childhood and youth on the old Rhodes homestead and here he grew to manhood. When he was thirty-two years

of age he was married on May 6, 1860, to Elizabeth Guffy, who was born in Sugar Creek township on August 20, 1840, and who was the daughter of William and Mary Ann (Jacobs) Guffy. William Guffy was born in Franklin county, Ohio, on November 22, 1806, and was one of twins, the first-born children of John and Nancy (Pendleton) Guffy, natives of Kentucky. John Guffy's father, Henry Guffy, came with two brothers from Ireland and settled in Kentucky at a very early date. Henry Guffy was killed by the Indians. John Guffy had one full brother, one full sister and five half-brothers and sisters. His full brother, Henry Guffy, was killed by the Indians near Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1812 or 1813. John Guffy was a young man when he came to Ohio with his mother and step-father, who settled in Franklin county. John Guffy was married there and lived on leased land until in 1829, when he came to Putnam county. Forty acres of his land was obtained by a warrant granted him for his services in the War of 1812. This tract he increased to three hundred and four acres, and owned, besides, one hundred and twenty acres in Kansas. Mr. Guffy was a well-known farmer in Putnam county. He was married to Mary Ann Jacobs in 1834, and to them were born ten children, two of whom died in infancy. Those who lived were: Samuel, Elizabeth, the wife of James Rhodes; Alexander, who died a prisoner in the Civil War; Anetta, who married Noah Meyers; George and James, farmers; Sarah, who married John Cratty, and Alice, who married Christopher Sakemiller. William Guffy's wife died on November 8, 1864.

James Rhodes went to California in 1850 and worked in the gold mines for four years. Later he returned to Putnam county, and six years afterward was married. He settled on a part of the homestead of his father just north of Rimer in Sugar Creek township, and here he lived the remainder of his life, with the exception of three years, which he spent in Columbus Grove. Here on the old homestead he died on October 12, 1914. He was a member of the Ottawa River Christian church and was a Republican in politics. James and Elizabeth Rhodes had five sons, Francisco, who died at the age of eighteen months; William, who is the subject of this sketch; Frank, who lives in Texas; Charles, who is a farmer in Sugar Creek township, and James, who died in infancy.

William D. Rhodes spent his childhood and youth on the old Rhodes homestead north of Rimer, at which time he attended the Rimer district school and, with the exception of one term spent at the Keirns district school, received all of his education in this school. After finishing school he continued to help his father on the farm, where he remained, with the exception of one year, until he was twenty-five years of age, when he was married.

William D. Rhodes was married on December 9, 1886, to Mary A. Blosser, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on May 14, 1859. She is the daughter of Jacob and Sophronia (Seitz) Blosser. Jacob Blosser was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1830. He came to Fairfield county, Ohio, when a young man and here he met and married Sophronia Seitz. After their marriage they resided for a few years in Fairfield county, and when Mary A. was an infant they moved to Union township, Putnam county, about three miles east of Kalida. In later years they moved two and one-half miles south of Kalida, where they now reside. Jacob Blosser died at this place in August, 1892, where his wife, Sophronia, still survives. Jacob Blosser was a lifelong member of the Baptist church. He was a Democrat in politics and a successful farmer, who owned one hundred and four acres of land. He was a faithful member of the church, a devoted husband and a loving father. His wife is also a member of the Baptist church. Jacob Blosser and wife had thirteen children, five sons and eight daughters, Lydia, Mary A., Catherine, Alice, Sarah, Elizabeth, Sophronia, John S., Charles D., Enoch, deceased; Noah, deceased; Ida and Edson. Mrs. William D. Rhodes received her early education in Union township and remained there until her marriage to Mr. Rhodes.

After his marriage William D. Rhodes lived on the old home place for three years, and the following spring, in 1889, he moved to a farm owned by his father just south of Rimer, which farm consisted of fifty-eight acres. Four years later he purchased this farm from his father, it having at the time only an old frame house and a log barn. Mr. Rhodes proceeded to drain, clear and fence the farm. He built a substantial eight-room residence and a commodious barn, thirty-six by fifty-four feet, and other buildings in keeping with the surroundings. Today Mr. Rhodes has one of the finest farms in the township, and it is almost wholly the result of his own efforts. In addition to operating this land, Mr. Rhodes is in partnership with his brother Charles, who farm altogether one hundred and twenty-one acres. William D. Rhodes has always done general farming and attributes his success to the raising of hogs.

To William D. and Mary A. (Blosser) Rhodes two children have been born, Elizabeth and Harvey J. William D. Rhodes is a member of the Ottawa River Christian church, of which Mrs. Rhodes and both the children are also members. Mr. Rhodes is a Republican. He served as township assessor for two terms. Both of the Rhodes children were graduates of the Vaughnsville high school of the class of 1909.

## JOSEPH B. EDWARDS.

It is with pleasure that the biographer has an opportunity to place before the readers of this work the life record of the honorable gentleman whose name initiates this paragraph. The history of Putnam county would be wholly incomplete were the name of Joseph B. Edwards not included in the list of well-known citizens, who have contributed so much to the progress and prosperity of this county. Joseph B. Edwards has spent many years of influence and usefulness in this community and is a broad-minded, conscientious worker and a successful farmer. He is honored and respected by his neighbors, and his career is a splendid example of what the young man of today may accomplish if he starts out in life with worthy ambitions and right ideals.

Joseph B. Edwards was born in Sugar Creek township, Allen county, Ohio, November 29, 1860. He is the son of Josiah and Susan (Breese) Edwards. Josiah Edwards was born in Montgomeryshire, North Wales, May 30, 1826, and was the son of Josiah, Sr., and Margaret (Jones) Edwards. Josiah Edwards, Sr., was a farmer by occupation. He lived and died in Wales. Josiah Edwards, Jr., and wife and one child came to America in 1855, arriving here in the spring. They settled first in Utica, New York, where he was employed on a dairy farm. The following fall, in 1855, he came to Allen county, Ohio, and settled at Gomer. His first employment was with Griffith John, a contractor who built the Pennsylvania railroad from Lima to Elida. The following summer he rented a farm on "Calico Ridge" in Sugar Creek township, Allen county, and here he lived for about seven years. He moved to Sugar Creek township, Putnam county in 1862, and settled on eighty acres, one and one-half miles southwest of Vaughnsville on the Old Ridge road which farm he purchased. The land was in a virgin state and had only an acre or two cleared. Josiah Edwards, Jr., took this task in hand and succeeded in getting it all cleared except eight acres, and drained. He built a large frame house in 1873, consisting of ten rooms, and a large frame barn in 1879. He has always been engaged in general farming and attributes his success mostly to raising corn and hogs. He has also been successful in raising good horses.

Josiah Edwards, Jr., enlisted in the Hundred and Fifty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, near the close of the Civil War, and served one hundred days. He was mustered into the service on May 13, 1864, at Camp Chase, Ohio, and was mustered out on August 27, 1864. The regiment was first stationed at Forts Sumpter, Mansfield and Simmons. During the active

operations of the rebels against Washington, D. C., on July 11 and 12, the larger part of the regiment was under fire, and several of the companies were in the forts which were engaged in the battle.

Josiah Edwards, Jr., and wife had born to them one child before they arrived in America. This child, John, arrived at Gomer, in Allen county. Josiah and Susan (Breese) Edwards came from Utica, New York, to Buffalo by canal boat, and from Buffalo to Cleveland by steamer, from Cleveland to Toledo on Lake Erie by steamer, and from Toledo to Delphos, Ohio, by the way of the Miami and Erie canal. They walked to Gomer from Delphos. Josiah and Susan (Breese) Edwards had five children, John, born in Wales on January 21, 1851, died at Gomer, November 8, 1855; Margaret, the second child was the deceased wife of B. F. Thomas; Joseph B., the subject of this sketch; Mary, the wife of Thomas S. Williams; John W. was the fifth child. Josiah Edwards died on August 17, 1897, at the ripe old age of seventy-one years. He was a member of the Gomer Congregational church and was a deacon in this church for many years. His wife was likewise a member. Josiah Edwards, Jr., was a Republican. He was a devout Christian and a man of high ideals and sterling integrity. He enjoyed the respect of his fellow citizens. Susan (Breese) Edwards was the daughter of John and Mary (Edwards) Breese. She was born in Montgomeryshire, North Wales, May 13, 1827. She had one brother and five sisters, all of whom came to America and all of whom settled in Iowa, except Mrs. Sarah Morris, who settled at Vaughnsville where she died. Mrs. Susan (Breese) Edwards lived on the old home place until her death on November 5, 1909.

Joseph B. Edwards was born on "Calico ridge" in Sugar Creek township, Allen county, and when about two years old his parents removed to Sugar Creek township, Putnam county. It was on this old homestead of his father that he spent his childhood and youth. He attended the old Bryn Tawa district school. After finishing the common school, he attended the Ohio Northwestern University at Ada, where he took a commercial course in 1881, after which he returned home and helped his father on the home farm. He remained on the farm until twenty-six years of age when he was married on December 15, 1886, to Mary A. Lewis, who was born in Butler county, Ohio, June 10, 1865, and who was the daughter of William and Elizabeth (Jones) Lewis. The ancestral history of the Lewis family is to be found in the sketch of John A. Lewis, contained elsewhere in this volume, the subject of which sketch is a brother of Mrs. Joseph B. Edwards.

After the marriage of Mr. Edwards, he remained on the home farm until the following April, when he moved to the Thomas farm, two miles

west of Vaughnsville, where he remained until the present time. He purchased forty acres of land and at different times twenty acres, fifteen acres and forty acres, making one hundred and fifteen acres in all. Mr. Edwards has rebuilt his residence and now has a commodious eleven-room residence, and a large barn and other buildings in keeping with the surroundings. His farm is well improved and consists of splendid land.

Joseph B. and Mary A. (Lewis) Edwards have seven children, four sons and three daughters, John Robert, William Josiah, Bessie, Grace, Spencer, Edith and Joseph B., Jr. Of these children, John Robert was born on October 29, 1887, married Mabel Clevenger, and they have one child, Maxine. They live in Sugar Creek township; William Josiah, May 28, 1889, married May Surdival, and they reside in Lima; Bessie, March 21, 1891, is unmarried and lives at home; Grace, June 5, 1894, is a student at the Ottawa Normal School; Spencer, November 21, 1896; Edith, May 4, 1902, and Joseph B., Jr., November 27, 1910.

Joseph B. Edwards and his wife are members of the Congressional church at Gomer. Mr. Edwards is a trustee in this church. He is a Republican, having served as trustee in Sugar Creek township from 1891 to 1900. He also served several years as a member of the township school board.

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### HENRY R. WILLIAMS.

Improvement and progress may well be said to form the key note of the character of Henry R. Williams, a well-known and influential farmer and stock raiser of Sugar Creek township, for he has been a nindustrious man all his life, keeping abreast of the times in every respect. A leading citizen of the township, he has made his influence felt among his fellow men, and has earned a name for enterprise, integrity and honor that entitles him to worthy notice in a work of the nature of this volume.

Henry R. Williams was born in Sugar Creek township on November 5, 1871, the son of David L. and Mary (Griffith) Williams, who are mentioned, specifically, in the sketch of the subject's brother, John D. Williams, elsewhere in this work. Henry R. Williams was reared on the paternal farmstead, and attended the old Michael district school in the neighborhood where he secured a good practical education. He then took a term of normal work in the Tri-State College, at Angola, Indiana, after which he remained at home and assisted his father in the operation of the old homestead until

attaining his majority. He was then employed in Lima, Ohio, two years, working in the Lima steel works and then for a year was in the West. The next two years he spent in the Lima oil fields where he gained valuable experience, and in March, 1908, decided to apply himself to the pursuit of agriculture. To this end he located on a part of his father's farm, one and one-quarter miles south of Vaughnsville, where he has continued to reside ever since. He first purchased eighty-five acres, to which he later added forty-one acres, and still later another tract of twenty-five acres, thus giving him an estate of one hundred and fifty acres, comprising some of the best farming land in this section of Ohio. To the cultivation of this farm he has applied himself unremittingly, and by the most indefatigable effort, combined with sound discretion and good management, he has achieved a splendid success as a farmer.

Henry R. Williams was married on May 20, 1896, to Emma Gander, who was born in Sugar Creek township on December 11, 1869, being the daughter of John and Susan (Garner) Gander. John Gander was born in Franklin county on October 6, 1822, the son of John and Elizabeth (Kendall) Gander. John Gander, Jr., came to Putnam county in 1838, and on June 24, 1847, was married to Susan M. Garner, who was born in Culpepper county, Virginia, on June 17, 1827. The senior Mr. Gander and his wife are both deceased, he dying on September 2, 1858, and she on November 21, 1865. Mrs. Gander's father, William W. Garner, died on June 6, 1867, and her mother, Elizabeth (Storer) Garner, died on March 5, 1853. They came to Putnam on January 1, 1837. John Gander was a justice of the peace for eighteen years, an assessor for seven years and he also held the offices of township clerk and treasurer for a number of years. John Gander died on January 3, 1894, and his wife, Susan Gander, on October 3, 1909. They were the parents of nine children, namely: John William, born on April 15, 1848, died on January 25, 1849; Elizabeth, January 22, 1850; Nancy, October 14, 1853; James, 1856; Mary, June 18, 1858; Joseph, December 10, 1861; Matilda, November 17, 1866; Emma, Mrs. Williams, December 11, 1869; Rose September 23, 1872, and died on April 7, 1913.

Mrs. Emma Williams was born on the old Gander homestead, just east of Vaughnsville, and there grew to womanhood. To Henry R. and Emma (Gander) Williams have been born seven children, as follow: Clyde, on March 3, 1897; Harold, July 13, 1899, died on October 22, 1914; Allen and Aileen, twins, August 21, 1901; George, August 21, 1903; Ivan, October 25, 1905; Willard, January 20, 1908.

Henry R. Williams and wife are both faithful and earnest members of

the Christian church, of which he is a trustee. He is a member of Lodge No. 711, Knights of Pythias, at Vaughnsville, while politically, he gives his support to the Republican party. During the years 1902 to 1906 he served efficiently as trustee of Sugar Creek township, winning the commendation of his fellow-citizens by his conduct of the office. His well-directed energy in the practical affairs of life, his capable management of his own business interests and his sound judgment, have demonstrated what may be accomplished by the man of energy and ambition, who proved that he is the possessor of those innate qualities, which never fail to bring success if properly directed. Because of his high character and clean life, Mr. Williams enjoys a well deserved popularity throughout the community where his life has been spent.

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### JOHN HENRY HOFFMAN.

The earliest representatives of the Hoffman family in America came from the village of Glandorf, in the Province of Hanover, Germany, and settled near Glandorf, Putnam county, about one year after the arrival of Father Horstman and his colony, who founded Glandorf, Putnam county. They were the paternal grandparents of John Henry Hoffman, the immediate subject of this biographical review, who is a farmer in Jackson township and owns eighty acres of land in section 12. Mr. Hoffman has not lived upon this farm continuously during his marriage, but a part of the time occupied the old Hoffman homestead. For many years Mr. Hoffman was a vocalist in the St. John's Catholic church choir at Glandorf. He now sings in the choir of St. Michael's church at Kalida. The paternal grandparents of John Henry Hoffman were the first Hoffmans to settle in this county. They had only two children, Ferdinand, deceased, and William F., the father of John Henry.

John Henry Hoffman was born in Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, on December 8, 1867. His parents were William Frederick and Clara (Schroeder) Hoffman. Mr. Hoffman's maternal grandparents came from Germany and settled near Glandorf, in Greensburg township. Among their children were Henry, Carl and Clara. William Frederick Hoffman attended school at Glandorf in his early youth and lived on his father's farm. He learned the carpenter trade and worked at it at Glandorf. Later he became a school teacher and was an accomplished musician and was organist at St. John's church at Glandorf for many years. He was also organist at St. Paul, Ot-



tawa and at St. Mary's church at Leipsic. He established a dry goods store and general mercantile business at Glandorf and divided his attention between business and farming. He owned about eighty acres of land. His teaching experience covered a period of about twenty-five years. William Frederick and Clara Hoffman had the following children: John, deceased; Mary, William, Theresa, Amelia, who died when two years old; Frank, John Henry, Anna, who died in 1908, and Charles. William Frederick Hoffman died on April 29, 1915, on the old home place with his son Charles. Mrs. William F. Hoffman died on February 6, 1898. Her remains were interred at Glandorf, as was also those of her husband. William F. Hoffman was a member of the Ohio General Assembly for two terms, having been nominated and elected on the Democratic ticket. He served for many years as justice of the peace at Glandorf.

John Henry Hoffman was educated in Glandorf, and in early youth worked on his father's farm, where he also worked at the carpenter trade. Mr. Hoffman was married on June 12, 1895, to Elizabeth Hertzog, the daughter of Barney and Mary (Wilkins) Hertzog. After his marriage Mr. Hoffman remained one year on the home farm and then removed to his present eighty acres in section 12 of Jackson township, land that he had bought previous to his marriage. He lived on the eighty-acre farm for two years and then returned to the home farm, where he lived for three years, at the end of which time Mr. Hoffman again returned to his farm in Jackson township. He erected the buildings which are now standing on the farm and improved the place generally. He cleared forty acres of the land and has thoroughly drained it. John H. and Elizabeth (Hertzog) Hoffman have had five children, Hugo, born on March 29, 1897; Clara, January 30, 1899; Louisa, September 4, 1901; Alma, September 13, 1904, and Alwin, September 9, 1908. All of these children are attending St. Michael's parochial school at Kalida.

Bernard Hertzog father of Mrs. Hoffman, was born in Germany, and his wife was born in Dayton, Ohio. He came to this country and settled in Dayton and was there married to Mary Wilkins, the daughter of Henry and Agnes (Siefker) Wilkins, who lived near Dayton. Four children were born to this marriage, two of whom, John and Clemens, are deceased. The other two are Elizabeth, the wife of Mr. Hoffman, and Frank. Mrs. Hertzog died on April 19, 1879, and after her death Mr. Hertzog was remarried to Mary Smith and had two children by this marriage, Herman and Anna. Mr. Hertzog died on October 23, 1914. Of the Hertzog children by the second marriage Frank married and lives in Sycamore, Illinois. Herman married Mary Timmer and lives in Dayton, Ohio. Anna married Carl Zink and lives in Dayton also.

John Henry Hoffman and family are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, where Mr. Hoffman is a prominent member of the church choir. Mr. Hoffman is a Democrat in politics and served on the school board of Jackson township. He is well known and highly respected in this community. His wife and family are greatly admired and this family may well be counted among the best families of Putnam county.

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#### IGNATIUS KAHLE.

Prominent among the younger generation of progressive and successful farmers of Putnam county, Ohio, is Ignatius Kahle, the well-known citizen of Greensburg township. Mr. Kahle is a descendant of some of the earliest pioneers of this section, men and women who have left the impress of their personalities upon the life of the community, and in his own day and generation Mr. Kahle is so ordering his life as to also make of himself an example of exemplary manhood. He is ambitious to make for himself a success of life not only in material matters, but in the things that count for most and are of lasting value, and, judging of the esteem in which he is held, he is already succeeding in the undertaking he has in mind.

Ignatius Kahle was born on the family homestead in Greensburg township, Putnam county, in February, 1876, a son of Frank and Bernadina (Brinkman) Kahle. Frank Kahle, Sr., father of Ignatius Kahle, was born on December 21, 1839, on the family homestead in Greensburg township, and passed his entire life in the one spot, his death occurring on February 23, 1898. He was a son of John F. and Bernadina (Wilberding) Kahle and in early manhood was united in marriage with Bernadina Brinkman, born in 1846, in this county, who was a daughter of Henry and Mary (Rieman) Brinkman. The Brinkmans were natives of Germany, who had emigrated to this country early in their married life and, after locating in one or two different places, finally settled permanently in this county.

Ignatius Kahle is one of a family of twelve children, for particulars of which the reader is respectfully referred to sketch of the career of Frank Kahle, Sr., elsewhere in this volume, and when a youth received his education in the common schools of his home township. From earliest boyhood he was carefully trained in the art of successful husbandry by his painstaking father, and by the time he had reached manhood he was well versed in the practical side of agriculture.

Mr. Kahle was united in marriage on April 16, 1902, to Catherine Duling, a daughter of William and Anna (Schroeder) Duling and a native of this county. William Duling, father of Mrs. Ignatius Kahle, was born in this county and educated in its public schools. His parents were both natives of Germany, who lived for many years in Ottawa township, this county, where they were known as successful farmers. Anna Schroeder, wife of William Duling, was a daughter of Henry and Catherine Schroeder, who came from Germany directly to this county, where they located in Greensburg township and were actively engaged in farming for many years. She was one of a family of thirteen children; the others living are: John, William, Charles, Matthew, Frank, Katie and Theresa. After William Duling and Anna Schroeder were married they moved to a farm of eighty acres in Greensburg township, on which spot their family was reared. At the time they obtained possession of it there was not much done to it in the way of improvements, but they bravely set to work, cleared the greater part of the land, put it all into an excellent state of cultivation and built many buildings, so that it came to be one of the comfortable homes of the community. They were the parents of four children, namely: Henry, Catherine, wife of our immediate subject; Anna and Frank. Henry married Adeline Recker and resides in Ottawa township, this county; they are the parents of five children. Anna became the wife of Barney Kottenbruck, a farmer of Ottawa township, and is the mother of nine children, three of whom are dead. Frank chose Rosa Barlager as his helpmeet, and they make their home with his widowed mother on the old Duling homestead, where he carries on farming.

After marriage Ignatius Kahle and wife took up their residence on his present homestead of one hundred and sixty acres, which land was at one time a portion of his father's estate. He has made all the improvements on this land in the way of buildings, having erected fifteen structures in all, which are accounted among the best farm buildings in the county. This is saying considerable when the excellent conditions prevailing in this county are considered. Mr. Kahle carries on general farming, conducting his business along lines most approved by modern scientific experiment and is, therefore, meeting with well deserved success. He also pays particular attention to the rearing of Shorthorn cattle, finding this a most remunerative side line to his regular business as agriculturist. In all, Mr. Kahle owns three hundred and thirteen acres of some of the best farm land in this section, and every acre of it bears silent witness to the excellent care given it by the owner.

To Ignatius and Catherine (Duling) Kahle have been born an inter-

esting family of six children, namely: Frances Mary Bernadina on March 22, 1903; Amos Frank John, July 7, 1905; Clara Mary Ann, June 26, 1907; Henry Frank William, November 2, 1909; Herbert Barney Ignatius, March 15, 1912, and Anna Mary Katherine, May 21, 1914. Mrs. Kahle is a woman of charming manners, who is much admired among her circle of friends and whose true mother heart is anxious that the little ones in her care shall be so trained as to be able to fill places of usefulness in the world when they come to years of manhood and womanhood.

Ignatius Kahle and family are devout members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, while the others mentioned within this sketch were of St. John's at Glandorf. Mr. Kahle votes the Democratic ticket, although he has no aspirations for the doubtful honors of a political career. He is an excellent specimen of sturdy young manhood and such as he form the foundation upon which the structure of our national wholesomeness is built.

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#### ORREN BRYANT GURNEY.

A distinguished veteran of the Civil War and a resident of Putnam county, Ohio, since 1883, Orren Bryant Gurney is one of the highly respected citizens of Van Buren township, where he has long made his home. As a youth he was very anxious to serve his country during the war, and made two attempts to enter the service before he finally succeeded, his father spoiling the first two attempts he made to get into service. He has been a life-long farmer, and has met with excellent success in all of his agricultural operations.

Orren B. Gurney, the son of John and Ruth (Pearson) Gurney, was born on February 4, 1844, at Alexandria, Licking county, Ohio. His father was born on January 31, 1815, at Cummington, Massachusetts, a son of Asa J. and Lucy (Bryant) Gurney, natives of the same place. Asa Gurney was a son of Asa Gurney, Sr., a Revolutionary soldier, who enlisted no less than seven different times during the struggle for independence.

The family record of the Gurney family has been distinctly traced back through generations to Mollie Reed, who was one of the Mayflower party, now famous in American history. It is stated on reliable authority that Orren B. Gurney can trace his ancestry without a break in the lineage to 1603, and with one or two breaks in lineage to 950. Asa Gurney, Jr., was a woolen manufacturer in Massachusetts, and made annual trips to Ohio in the early part of the nineteenth century to buy wool. In these trips it was



MR. AND MRS. ORREN B. GURNEY.



his custom to purchase a horse and saddle, which he used to ride over the country in buying wool for his factory. After finishing his trip he would trade his horse and saddle for a piece of land, and in this way accumulated two hundred and fifty acres of farming land in Licking county. He bought the best quality of Merino wool, which he shipped through the old Ohio canal to Cleveland, from which point it was sent by lake and the Erie canal to its destination in Massachusetts. Asa Gurney, Jr., sold out his woolen mill interests in Massachusetts along about 1831 and moved to Alexandria, Licking county, Ohio, where he spent the remainder of his life, with the exception of about fifteen years, when he lived in Granville, Ohio.

John Gurney came to Alexandria with his parents at the age of sixteen, after which time he helped his father on the farm until he was married on May 27, 1840, to Ruth Pearson, of Auburn, New York. To this union seven children were born—Paul Pearson, born on May 27, 1842; Orren B., born on February 4, 1844; Heber, born on April 1, 1846; David, born on May 16, 1848; Willis, born on August 2, 1850; Lucy, born on January 27, 1852; Winona B., born on December 8, 1853. John Gurney continued to live on the old Gurney homestead, in Licking county, until within a year of his death, in April, 1888. His wife was of Revolutionary stock, a member of the Episcopal church and died in 1873.

Orren B. Gurney attended the common schools of Licking county, and remained at home until the opening of the Civil War. After two ineffectual attempts to enlist he succeeded in being mustered into the service, May 2, 1864, and became a member of the One Hundred and Thirty-fifth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was honorably discharged at the end of his enlistment, on September 1, 1864. During his service he participated in the battle of John Brown's school house, near Harper's Ferry, and during this fight his company lost fifteen killed and two companies were taken prisoners just prior to the opening of the battle.

After he returned from the war he went to Lyons, New York, where he attended the high school for a time. He then returned to Ohio and took a commercial course at Oberlin College, and on leaving college took a trip to Missouri, where he remained a year. Upon his return, in 1869, he married and continued residing in Licking county until 1883. In that year he came to Putnam county and bought twenty acres of land at that time in Van Buren township, which he cleared and still retains. Subsequently, he added about one hundred acres more to his farm, and now has one of the best improved and most highly productive farms of the township.

Mr. Gurney was married on April 1, 1869, to Martha J. Holler, the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Holler, of Newark, Ohio, and to this union three children were born—Roberta Blanch, R. H. and Ruth. Roberta Blanch became the wife of William Riches, of Townwood, Ohio, and has four children, Adeline, Bryant, Robert and Tracy; R. H. Gurney married Christina Sechrist, and they are the parents of four children, two of whom are deceased; Ruth is the wife of James W. Jennings, who lives near Cincinnati, Ohio, and has eight children.

The first wife of Mr. Gurney died on January 14, 1910, and on November 6, 1913, Mr. Gurney was married to Mrs. Mary A. (Niebel) Dunn, a daughter of Obed and Hannah (Nease) Neibel. She was born near McCutchenville, Wyandot county, Ohio.

Mr. Gurney is a charter member of the North Ridge Grange, No. 1421, of which he has been the master for about six years. He is also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Leipsic, and has served as its commander. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons at Leipsic. He was formerly a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, but now he is a member of the Evangelical church, to which denomination his wife also belongs.

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#### LOUIS KONST.

Not a few of the enterprising citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, were either born in the little Kingdom of Holland or are descended from people who were born in that thriving domain. The people who have come from Holland and their immediate descendants are among the best citizens not only of Putnam county, but of any county where they have settled. The Konst family has long been known in this section of the state, and one of the enterprising and progressive members of that family is Louis Konst, of Miller City, who is now engaged in the retail liquor trade in Miller City.

Louis Konst was born on February 19, 1872, in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, on a farm, the son of Lucas and Caroline (Burkhart) Konst, the former of whom was a native of Holland and the latter a native of Ottawa township, this county.

Lucas Konst was born in Holland, and when six years of age came to America with his parents, who brought with them their entire family, as follow: John, deceased; Katherine and Lucas. The family first settled in Cincinnati, where Lucas attended school, and in that city he learned the car-



penter trade. When a young man he came with his father and the rest of the family to New Cleveland, Ohio, where they settled on a farm of eighty acres. Lucas Konst's sister, Katherine, married Mathias Otto, and lives at New Cleveland. After coming to New Cleveland Lucas Konst worked at his trade as a carpenter, and here married Caroline Burkhart, the daughter of Adam Burkhart and wife, and after his marriage he engaged in farming on what is known as the John Beck farm. For some time Mr. Konst farmed on shares. Later he moved to the Kinnecke farm, near Columbus Grove, where he remained for three years, when he bought a farm at Elm Center, consisting of forty-seven acres, where he lived until 1910, and then removed to Ottawa, where he lived until his death on January 8, 1913. He was survived by his widow and the following children: Frank, Charles, John, Joseph, Louis, Thomas, Martha, Rudolph, William and Mathias. Of these children Frank married Anna Yenner, and lives in Continental, Ohio; Charles first married Mary Barlager, and after her death he married Caroline Yenner, who died at Continental, Ohio, after which he married Clara Vanylera, and now lives near Hicksville, Ohio; John married Catherine Krouse and lives at Leipsic, Ohio; Joseph married Zine Riggs and lives in Ottawa; Louis is the subject of this sketch; Thomas married Emma Laird and lives in Toledo, Ohio; Martha became the wife of William Hammond, and they live at Sherwood, Ohio; Rudolph married Gertrude Alt, and lives in Ottawa; William lives in San Diego, California; Mathias married Jennie Klass, and lives in Miller City.

Louis Konst received his education in the schools of Elm Center, Ohio. During the early years of his life he lived on a farm, where he worked for some time. Later he was employed in a stave factory.

Louis Konst was married on April 5, 1898, to Imus I. Kiefer, the daughter of Marion and Mary (Gingrich) Kiefer, who were residents of Continental, and were the parents of the following children: Benjamin, Amanda, Imus and Ovel. Mrs. Kiefer is now deceased, and her husband is still living at Continental. After his marriage Mr. Konst lived in Ottawa and was engaged in the restaurant business. He also worked for a time in Continental and then engaged in business with Joseph Gingrich. Subsequently he engaged, on September 1, 1900, in business for himself at Continental and later moved to a farm of one hundred and forty-nine acres in Defiance county, Ohio, which he purchased. He lived there for two years, and improved the farm in many ways, erecting a house, barn and other outbuildings. He then bought one hundred acres additional on January 1, 1915. Subsequently he moved to Defiance and later engaged in the meat business on June 1, 1910,

in Continental, after which he purchased the business of his brother, Rudolph, on November 28, 1910, and formed a partnership with his brother, Mathias, on March 1, 1914, which has continued ever since.

To Louis and Imus I. (Kiefer) Konst have been born two children, Beulah, on January 1, 1899, and Curtis, August 28, 1901.. Beulah is a student in the Miller City high school and Curtis is also attending school at Miller City.

Mr. Konst owns his property in Miller City, and also owns two hundred and forty-nine acres of land in Defiance county, Ohio. In every respect he is a self-made man, and deserves the confidence and respect of the people of the county for his industry, frugality and good business management.

Mr. Konst is a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, and in politics is a Democrat, but has not been active in political matters. He has devoted his attention to his own personal and private business affairs, which accounts in a large measure for his success in life.

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#### CHARLES W. BEARD.

One of the well-known farmers of Putnam county, Ohio, is Charles W. Beard, who owns a fertile and productive farm and one which is well improved in every respect. He is a man who has encountered many obstacles in life, but he has never been discouraged and has always succeeded in surmounting whatever obstacles that might arise. Mr. Beard's predominant trait, perhaps, is his optimism, and on this account he is popular among his neighbors, highly respected and admired by them. Charles W. Beard comes from one of the oldest families in Putnam county; one which has been intimately connected with the history of this county almost from its beginning. He is, therefore, in every respect a representative citizen and one entitled to representation in this volume.

Charles W. Beard was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, on December 6, 1860, the son of John and Mary Beard. John Beard was born in 1830 in Fairfield county, Ohio. He is the son of John, Sr., and Mary (Carey) Beard. The paternal grandfather of John Beard was a native of Ireland, who settled in the state of Maryland, where he was a teacher. He lived to be one hundred years old. John Beard, Sr., was born in North Carolina and came to Fairfield county, Ohio, when a young man. His wife, who before her marriage was Mary Carey, was born in Maryland on July 4, 1802, the daughter of John and Mary Carey. To John, Sr., and Mary Beard were born six children, Mrs. Margaret Pickering, George, Jacob,

Samuel, John and Cornelius. John Beard, Sr., was a miller by trade, and died of cholera in 1832. His widow was later married to J. M. Allen and, after bearing him six children, died on January 13, 1889.

John Beard, Jr., the father of Charles W., was reared as a farmer and educated in the common schools. He began on his account at the age of fourteen. In the fall of 1855 he taught his first school at Cuba, in Putnam county, and taught four winter terms after that, continuing his professional work, however, until 1866, in Greensburg and Jackson townships and in the town of Ft. Jennings. After living for a time in Putnam county Mr. Beard moved to Franklin county, but subsequently returned to Putnam county and purchased a farm near Ft. Jennings in 1866. He purchased a farm in Greensburg township in 1872 and moved to this farm in that year. John Beard was married on November 2, 1854, at Columbus, Ohio, to Mary Jane Case, a native of New York and the daughter of Jacob and Anna Case. There were two children born to this union, William H., who died in infancy, and Charles W., the subject of this sketch. Mrs. Beard died in 1866 and on September 22, 1867, Mr. Beard was married to Mrs. Sophia (Shank) Guyton, who was born in Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, and who was the daughter of Henry and Barbara (Meyers) Shank, natives of Maryland. Henry Shank was born near Hagerstown, and was the son of Christian Shank, Sr. Barbara Meyers, his wife was born in Maryland and was the daughter of John and Mary Meyers. She married Henry Shank in Maryland, soon after which they moved to Putnam county. To this second marriage of John Beard six children were born, Christian, a farmer near Auburn, Indiana, who married Maude Bibler, and has four children, Joyce, Elsie, Samuel and Charles; Lucy A., who married John Bibler, of Greensburg township, and has had ten children, eight of whom are living, Flossie, Fay, Velma, Coral, Ella, Della, Raymond, Dale, Pauline and Woodrow Wilson; John F., of near Edgerton, who married Mary Wynkoop, and has four children, John Milton, Icy, Preston and Zola; Margaret, who died in infancy; Ella E., who lives on her father's farm, married Clyde M. Fletcher and has one son, Paul Clarence, and Samuel S., who lives south of Kalida, married Minnie Kirkendall and has three children, Doyle, Helen and Annabel.

Charles W. Beard, a son by the first marriage, was reared on his father's farm and attended the district schools of Putnam county. He remained on this farm until he was twenty years of age.

Charles W. Beard was married on March 4, 1886, to Lydia Ridenour, the daughter of John and Barbara (Nemire) Ridenour. John Ridenour was a native of Putnam county, and was the first white child born in Ottawa

township. He was born on April 3, 1834, in Putnam county, and was reared on his father's farm. In 1852 he was married to Barbara Nemire, who was born in Maryland and came to Putnam county, Ohio, when quite young. The paternal grandparents of Mrs. Beard were Henry and Margaret (Bont-haver) Ridenour, who were early settlers in Putnam county, where they entered land in Ottawa township. Barbara Nemire was one of eight children born to John Nemire and wife. The others were: Hiram, Edward, Samantha, deceased; Mary, Lydia, Henry and John. The father of these children, John Nemire, followed farming in Ottawa township, and died at his home on January 16, 1892. John and Barbara Ridenour had five children, Barbara A., Mary, Lydia J., Henry and John. Barbara A., born on January 21, 1859, married Jonas Shank and has six children. They live near Kalida in Putnam county; Mary, March 18, 1861, married Alfred Shank and has one son. They live in Ashtabula, Ohio; Lydia J., September 12, 1863, is the wife of Mr. Beard; Henry, September 18, 1864, married Carrie Wright and lives near Ottawa, Putnam county; John, March 14, 1867, married Catherine Farley and has six children. They live near Miller City, Putnam county.

Charles W. Beard and wife moved to a farm owned by his father in Greensburg township, Putnam county. They continued to live there until he purchased the farm upon which he now lives, consisting of eighty acres. Mr. Beard rebuilt the house and erected a new barn and other buildings. During the flood which swept this part of the state he lost a large number of live stock. The water covered almost the entire first floor of his house. Despite this loss Mr. Beard took a new start and has regained it. He is a man of affluence and also of influence. He devotes his farm to general lines and has a well-kept place. Mr. Beard is industrious and a man of strict integrity.

To Charles W. and Lydia (Ridenour) Beard two children have been born, Margaret Ann on January 7, 1887, died in infancy, and Mary, June 11, 1884, who is unmarried and lives at home.

Mrs. Charles W. Beard has every reason to be proud of her illustrious ancestors. The Ridenour family dates back to colonial days. They held a family reunion and have printed a volume showing the genealogy of the family. It presents an unbroken line of more than one hundred years.

Charles W. Beard is a member of the Knights of Pythias. Charles W. Beard, wife and family are members of the Christian church and are active in both the work of the church and Sunday school. Mr. Beard was a member of the school board for eight years, in which office he is still serving. He is now serving on the board of trustees.

## WILLIAM TUDOR.

It is with marked satisfaction that the biographer refers to the life of William Tudor, a prominent young farmer of Sugar Creek township, who has attained success in a vocation which requires definiteness of purpose and determined action. Such a life, whether it be one of calm consecutive endeavor or of sudden meteoric accomplishment, must abound in both lesson and incentive and prove a guide to young men whose fortunes and destinies are still matters for the future to determine. William Tudor is distinctively one of the representative farmers of Putnam county. By patient and persistent endeavor he has succeeded in overcoming many obstacles with which his pathway was beset, and is today considered one of the foremost farmers of this county.

William Tudor was born on July 12, 1877, in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Humphrey and Sophia (Davis) Tudor. Humphrey Tudor was born in 1838 at Drefoldwyn, North Wales. He came to America with his mother in 1857 at the age of eighteen. They shipped from Liverpool, England, and on account of the smallpox on board the ship they changed their course and went to Halifax, Nova Scotia, where they remained in quarantine for about two months. After this they resumed their journey and landed in New York. He then came to Ohio, and settled near Venedocia, Van Wert county. There he remained for a short time and then removed to Allen county, where he obtained employment with Richard Evans, a farmer, for whom he worked about three years.

During this Humphrey Tudor purchased forty acres of land three miles west of Gomer, in Allen county. He then rented a farm two miles from Gomer, on which he lived for about four years. Just before moving to this farm, and when he was twenty-five years of age, he was married on November 7, 1862, to Sophia Davis, who was born near Gomer. To this union were born nine children, three of whom died in infancy. Those that survived were as follow: Mary, the wife of Owen B. Owens, who died in March, 1894; Margaret, who died at the age of twenty-four, July 22, 1891; John, who married Kate Griffith; Jennie, who married Elmer Reese, and who died in June, 1894; Elizabeth, who died at the age of sixteen, on June 7, 1891, and William, the subject of this sketch. Mrs. Sophia (Davis) Tudor died on April 12, 1883, when William Tudor was not quite six years old.

Humphrey Tudor next moved to Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, where he purchased one hundred acres of land, known as the Sol. Slusser farm. It was located one and one-half miles south of Vaughnsville. During

the first summer the family lived in the house on the farm of D. L. Williams while Humphrey Tudor was building a residence on his own farm, and into which the family moved in the fall. On March 27, 1895, Humphrey Tudor was again married to Catherine Jones, of Gomer, Allen county, Ohio. She is the daughter of Cadwalader Jones and wife. To this last union no children were born. Three years after settling here Humphrey Tudor and wife moved to Gomer, where he lived in retirement for seven years, or until his death, March 27, 1895. He was sixty-eight years old at the time of his death.

William Tudor spent his early childhood on the home place, and the remainder of his youth until he was seventeen was spent on a farm just south of the old home place in the edge of Allen county. He received his early education at the old district No. 1, or the old Martz, school. After finishing the common schools he took a normal course at the Lutheran College at Lima, Ohio. The year following, at the age of nineteen, he taught school in Sugar Creek township, Allen county. For the ensuing six years he farmed with his brother John in partnership. They had charge of the two hundred and four acres belonging to their father.

On October 8, 1902, at the age of twenty-five years, Mr. Tudor was married to Anna Leah Griffiths, who was born in Sugar Creek township, Allen county, on January 18, 1879. She is the daughter of John D. and Jane A. (Jones) Griffiths. John D. was born in Delaware county, Ohio, near Radner, in 1848, and died in Sugar Creek township, Allen county, in 1881, at the age of thirty-three years. He was the son of Thomas D. and Sarah A. (Jones) Griffiths. The former was probably a native of Wales and the latter was of Welsh parentage. Jane A. (Jones) Griffiths was born near Gomer, Allen county, in 1858, and died in Allen county in March, 1879. She was the daughter of Evan W. and Leah (Jones) Jones, both of whom were natives of Wales and who settled near Gomer, where they spent the remainder of their lives. John D. and Jane A. (Jones) Griffiths had but one child, Anna Leah, who is the wife of Mr. Tudor. After the death of his first wife John D. Griffiths was again married to Nancy Brenneman, of Allen county, and the daughter of Martin and Anna Brenneman. One child, Thomas, was born to this union, and he resides at Decatur, Indiana. After the marriage of William Tudor he took charge of the old home place, and has resided here ever since. He rented this place of his father while the latter was living, and at his death inherited the farm. William Tudor has always followed general farming and has been quite successful. His home place is well improved, having a seven-room, commodious residence, nicely situated, a large barn and other buildings in keeping with the surroundings. Mr. Tudor is

the owner of one hundred and twenty-four acres of excellent land. He has been very successful in raising and feeding hogs.

After the death of Mrs. Anna Brenneman the daughter was taken by Martin Brenneman and family to be reared. She lived with them for about two years, when her father married a daughter of Mr. Brenneman. She lived with her father until his death, which occurred about a year later. The balance of her childhood was spent with her grandfather, Thomas D. Griffiths, of Gomer.

William and Anna L. (Griffiths) Tudor have two children, John Homer was born on October 31, 1903; Robert on March 13, 1908. William Tudor is a member of the Congregational church. Mrs. Tudor is also a member of this church. Mr. Tudor is a deacon in the church. He is a Republican in politics.

William Tudor is counted not only as a good farmer, but as a substantial citizen and as a man who has added prestige to the agricultural life of Sugar Creek township, where he is so well and favorably known.

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#### AUGUSTUS BACHTALL.

It is always a pleasure to record the life of one who has lived wisely and well, but especially gratifying is it to commemorate those who embody in their character the sturdy qualities of famous ancestry. To endure the hardships of pioneer life required men and women of strong character and resolute purpose, and fortunate indeed is he who comes of such worthy stock. Such is Augustus Bachtall, whose grandfather and uncle fought under Napoleon, and whose father served for seven years in the French army.

Augustus Bachtall, who is now living on a farm near Ottawa, Ohio, was born in Stark county, this state, on February 13, 1849. He is the son of Nicholas and Elizabeth (Kessler) Bachtall, natives of Alsace-Lorraine, which was at the time of their residence there a part of France.

Both of Mr. Bachtall's grandparents on the father's side were born and died in France. Their children were Mathias, Fred, Catherine, Elaine, John and Nicholas. The grandfather was a soldier under Napoleon, as was also John, who risked his life in the siege of Moscow, and who witnessed the burning of that historic city. While many of his compatriots lost their lives, he returned to France and lived to be honored and aged. The grandparents of Mr. Bachtall on the maternal side, Joseph and Elizabeth Kessler, came to America from Alsace-Lorraine and settled on a farm of one hundred and

twenty acres in Carroll county, Ohio, where, after living good and useful lives, they passed away. Their family of eight children, while born in the old country, came to America and took up their residence in Carroll county, Ohio. These were John, Philip, Michael, Charles, Louis, Mary, Jacob and Elizabeth.

Nicholas Bachtall, father of the one in whom our interest centers, was born on September 5, 1812, in Alsace-Lorraine, and died on August 20, 1895. He received his early education in the old country, and, true to his military ancestry honored his country by army service for a period of seven years. Coming to this country with his brothers and sisters, who settled in Massillon county, Ohio, he first worked at his trade of wagon making. In 1846 he was married to Elizabeth Kessler, the ceremony taking place in Carroll county. The pioneer instinct was too strong to permit him to be content with a rented home, so nine years later, on April 25, 1855, he and his family moved to a farm of one hundred and sixty acres two miles north of Ottawa. After clearing the land he built a splendid home, and engaged in successful farming until his death in 1895. He was prominent in local politics, being a Democrat, and during all of his life attended the Catholic church.

Nicholas Bachtall was survived by seven children, Augustus, Elizabeth, Caroline, Mary, Leo, Addie and Josephine. Augustus, in whom we are especially interested, was six years old when, with his parents, he left Stark county, Ohio, and migrated to Putnam county. Anxious to succeed as a farmer, the young man learned from his father the secrets of successful agriculture. He married Agnes Brendinghoff in 1886, continuing to make his home on the farm with his parents. Some years after the death of his first wife Mr. Bachtall was married to Ella Reardon. The second wife passed away in 1897. The children of this union were August, born on December 29, 1891; Carence, October 29, 1896; and Mary E., May 29, 1893. The eldest son, August, married Viola Fry, widow of John Fry, and her maiden name was Viola Yager, the ceremony taking place in November, 1913. Only nineteen days after the birth of their son, Erwin Clarence, who was born on September 3, 1914, the young wife died.

Augustus Bachtall and his son, August, Jr., are now living on a farm of one hundred and twelve acres in Ottawa township. While the active management of the farm is carried on by the younger of the two Bachtalls, yet the experience of the older man makes him a valuable assistant in matters pertaining to agricultural enterprises.

Augustus Bachtall, Jr., is a young man possessing just such sterling qualities as one coming from a fighting ancestry would be expected to pos-



sess. He is alert, ambitious and energetic. His usual gaiety of spirits, however, has been marred by the death of his young wife. Since his six years of schooling in Ottawa, he, too, has been engaged in farming. Like his father, Augustus Bachtall, Jr., has always been a Democrat, and a life-long member of the St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf.

While limiting his business activities to farming, Mr. Bachtall did so in such a way as to become well-known in his community, and to merit the confidence and respect of those who knew him.

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### CARL MATHIAS GERDEMANN.

The twentieth century farmer knows very little of the disadvantages which surrounded the pioneer farmers of this state. No longer is the farmer compelled to rise early in the morning and continue his labors far into the night. The farmer of today can do as much work in half a day as his fathers, fifty years ago, could do in a whole day. The free mail delivery leaves the daily paper at his door each morning, his telephone puts him in communication with his neighbors, while the interurban car and automobile enable him to participate in all the features of city life. The present generation of farmers have no forest to clear, few swamps to drain, while hundreds of inventions designed to lighten the labors of the farmers have been put into their hands. One of the farmers of Putnam county who has taken advantage of the modern inventions and improvements is Carl Mathias Gerdemann, of Union township.

Carl Mathias Gerdemann was born near Glandorf, in Putnam county, Ohio, on May 9, 1869. He is the son of Henry and Bernadina (Eickholt) Gerdemann, both natives of Putnam county, the former of whom was born on February 19, 1842, and who himself was the son of Casper and Anna Gerdemann, natives of Germany, and the latter of whom was born on May 15, 1846, the daughter of Barney and Elizabeth (Nieman) Eickholt, also natives of Germany.

Casper Gerdemann and his wife, Anna, came to America from Germany and located in Putnam county. They were the parents of seven children, Casper, Joseph, Henry, Mathias, Theodore, Mary and Eliabeth. Theodore was a soldier in the Civil War, having served in an Ohio regiment. He was captured by the enemy and died in a military prison. Casper and Anna Gerdemann were prominent and influential members of the community in which they

lived and active in all the good works of the neighborhood. They were buried in Grandview cemetery. Barney Eickholt and his wife, Elizabeth, who was a Nieman, also came from Germany to Putnam county, at an early date, and settled near Glandorf. They were the parents of six children, Joseph, Martha, Henry, William, Charles and Bernadina, the last of whom was the mother of the immediate subject of this sketch.

Henry Gerdemann, Sr., grew to manhood on the paternal farm near Glandorf. He was married, on May 5, 1868, to Bernadina Eickholt, and immediately moved to a farm of one hundred and ten acres in Union township. Henry Gerdemann has lived retired during recent years, with his son, Henry, Jr. His wife died in March, 1915. Henry, Sr., and Bernadina (Eickholt) Gerdemann had thirteen children, Charles married Anna Sandeer; Andrew married Ida Darling; Katherine married Henry Hamburg; Barney married Anna Brinkman; John married Mary Long; William married Mary Schroeder; Elizabeth married Henry Verhoff; Amelia married William Marman; Josephine is unmarried; Bernadina married Joseph Marmon; Henry married Emma Merschman; Carl Mathias is the subject of this sketch, and Mathias married Elizabeth Schumacher.

Carl Mathias Gerdemann attended school in Union township at the Barney Fortman school and lived on his father's farm until his marriage. He worked out for two years on other farms in Greensburg township. He helped to clear and develop his father's farm.

Carl Mathias Gerdemann was married, on May 1, 1901, to Anna Sander, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Vorst) Sander, both of whom were natives of Hanover, Germany. Mrs. Gerdemann's maternal grandparents were Theodore and Elizabeth Vorst, who were farmers in Germany. Their children were Henry, Herman, Theodore, Mathias, Frank, Philomena, Elizabeth, Catherine, Christina and Carolina. Of these, Elizabeth, Catherine, Christina, Carolina and Bernard came to this country. Mrs. Gerdemann's paternal grandparents were also natives of Hanover, Germany, and lived and died in that country. Mrs. Gerdemann's parents were married in Germany, where father died. Her mother married Joseph Busch a number of years after her first husband's death and came to America with her family, settling on a farm near Kalida. The children of the first marriage were Anna, Josephine and Henry. Anna is the wife of Carl Mathias Gerdemann. Henry married Emma Grover, and lives in Kalida. Josephine married Andrew Wehrie and lives near Kalida. The mother of these children died in 1913. She was survived by her husband and children. The husband lives on the old farm.

After his marriage, Carl Mathias Gerdemann and wife moved to a farm

of sixty acres in section 18, in Union township. Mr. Gerdemann had bought this farm five years before his marriage. He has erected all the buildings on the place and has a splendid farm. His barn is covered with a tile roof.

To Carl Mathias and Anna (Sanders) Gerdemann five children have been born, Aloysius, on May 31, 1903; Lawrence, October 2, 1906; Otto, July 18, 1911; Ludwina, February 24, 1913; Mary, October 17, 1914, died on January 17, 1915. Carl Mathias Gerdemann is engaged in general farming. He raises a great many cattle of all kinds, and hogs.

Carl Mathias Gerdemann, wife and family are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida. Mr. Gerdemann belongs to St. Joseph's Benevolent Society. He is a Democrat. A step-brother of Mrs. Gerdemann's, Henry Busch, is studying for the priesthood at the present time at Spokane, Washington. The Gerdemann family is among the oldest in this section of the country and among the most highly respected in Putnam county. Carl Mathias Gerdemann is a splendid farmer and a representative citizen of this vicinity.

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#### CLARENCE AUGUSTUS BURKHART.

While success cannot be achieved without unflagging industry, the futility of effort is often noticeable in the business world and results from the fact that it is not combined with sound judgment. Many a man who gives his entire life to toil, earnest and unremitting, never acquires a competence, but when his labor is well-directed, prosperity always follows. Clarence Augustus Burkhart is one whose work has been supplemented by careful management, and today he is numbered among the successful farmers of the locality in which he lives.

Clarence Augustus Burkhart was born on his father's farm in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, January 9, 1873. He is a son of John and Sarah (Cleveneger) Burkhart, the father having come to Putnam county from Reading, Pennsylvania, and the mother was a native of Union township, Putnam county. John Burkhart was a shoemaker by trade, having acquired a knowledge of that business during his youth in Pennsylvania, but did not follow it. Upon his arrival from Pennsylvania, he was married to Sarah Clevenger, and they went to live on the old Isaac McCracken farm, as renters of the place. Three years later, however, he purchased a tract of one hundred and sixty-four acres in Union township and continued farming until his death. He was a faithful supporter of the Democratic party and an ardent member of the Methodist church. While not being an aspirant to high polit-

ical office, yet he was elected to the office of township trustee, which office he served with credit and honor. To John Burkhart and wife there were born, William, Albert, Milton, Hattie, Paul, Rosa (deceased), and August. The mother was married a second time to William Rambo, and they reside in Kalida, Ohio. Of her children, Hattie is the wife of Albert Stump and lives in Union township, this county; Milton married Nora McDowell; William married Myrtle Sarber, they reside in Lucas county; August, the subject of this review, and Albert married Nora Johnson.

Clarence Augustus Burkhart, having lost his father by death when he was but five years old, went to live with an uncle, Amos Beam, who lives in Union township. In this locality he received his early education and remained on his uncle's farm until he arrived at mature age. He was married, on June 11, 1907, to Tizbie Smith, daughter of Madison and Caroline (Eckley) Smith, the former being a native of Tuscarawas county, Ohio, and the latter of Putnam county, Ohio. Mr. Smith has been a traveling salesman for the wholesale grocery firm of Overmeyer & Co., of Toledo, Ohio, since 1891, and covers a large territory in the interests of that firm. His father was one of the pioneer settlers of Monroe township, Putnam county, the home being sixteen miles from Ottawa, the county seat. Many times he has related to his children of walking to and from Ottawa for provisions in the early days. To him and his wife were born Tizbie, Savilla, Seldon, Harley and Felicia, all of whom enjoy the continued devotion of their parents, who are still living, and are active members of the Methodist church. The paternal grandparents of Mrs. Burkhart were Adam and Margaret (Shovis) Smith, natives of the state of Ohio, to whom were born Sylvester, William, Salathiel, Arthur, Letitia Jane, Lorenzo, Sanford, Madison, Edson, and an infant who died very soon after birth. Sylvester was a soldier during the Civil War, serving with the Federal forces, and later on studied for and became a Methodist clergyman. The maternal grandparents were John and Eliabeth Eckley of Putnam county, whose children were Mary, Jane, Caroline, Ancil and Doretta. John Eckley was also a soldier in the Civil War with the Federal forces.

Immediately after the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Burkhart they lived on the farm occupied by Albert M. Burkhart, part of which C. A. owned for five years. He had purchased a farm consisting of one hundred and sixteen acres in Union township before marriage and now makes this place their home. The house was thoroughly remodeled, new barns and outhouses constructed, and everything indicating a certain degree of prosperity. To this couple were born Ivan, on August 7, 1909, and Doris, October 23, 1911. All of the family are members of the Methodist church and to this Mr. Burkhart is a liberal

giver, according to his means. The wife is a woman of genial disposition and has always done her share toward the encouragement of her husband's undertakings.

Before her marriage Mrs. Burkhart taught school. She graduated at the high school of Dupont, Ohio, and also the normal school. She taught school for five years, two years of which were taught in the Kalida schools.

Mr. Burkhart is a supporter of the Democratic party, and has served the community as township trustee. He was also a member of the town council, is not an aspirant for public office in any sense, but as an official has rendered most valuable service to the community. Personally, he is a good business-farmer, highly intelligent, genial, well-informed on current topics, and a man in whom the utmost confidence is reposed by those who know him best. He is now serving as a member of the township school board.

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#### REV. HENRY GERWERT.

Putnam county, Ohio, has been the home and the scene of the labors of many men who have not only led lives which serve as a lesson to those who follow them on the stages of life's activities, but who have also been of importance in the service of the moral and civic life of the community. The honored and highly-esteemed Rev. Henry Gerwert is a man of well-rounded character, sincere, devoted and loyal. Standing, as he does today, at the head of one of the most important churches in Putnam county, his labors have long been directed for the amelioration of the people of his community. He is not an old man, but in fact, is comparatively young, and has made rapid progress in ecclesiastical affairs.

Rev. Henry Gerwert was born on October 29, 1881, in Rheinland, Germany, the son of Henry and Katherine (Koehne) Gerwert, where he received his elementary education in the schools of his native land, and then became a student in the University of Bonn, Germany. Later he entered Mt. St. Mary's Seminary at Cincinnati, Ohio, where he studied for one year, completing a course in English. He was ordained to the priesthood in Toledo, August 28, 1908, by the Rt. Rev. Joseph Koudelka, auxiliary bishop of Cleveland, now bishop of the diocese of Superior, Wisconsin. After his ordination, Rev. Henry Gerwert was assigned to the church at Ottoville, Putnam county, where he remained until January 17, 1914. He was then assigned to St. Nicholas's church, at Miller City, Putnam county, with the

mission at Continental, Ohio. A new school building has been built in connection with the church at Miller City, and is a substantial, one-story brick building and will have been erected largely through the efforts of Father Gerwert. The parish of St. Nicholas comprises about one hundred and thirty families. Father Gerwert is well versed in modern and ancient languages and while in college mastered Italian and French and is the author of many poems. His poetry is characterized by simple beauty and rythmical construction.

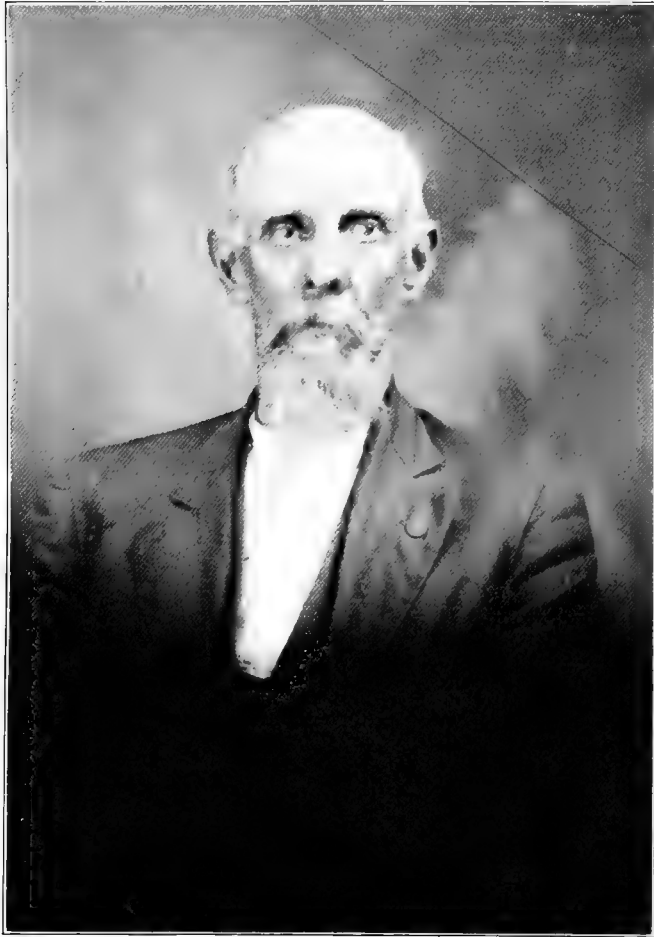
Henry Gerwert's brother, John, completed college course in 1914 in Rensselaer, Indiana, and is planning to study medicine in the near future. Henry Gerwert's sister, Catherine, who was also born in Germany, came to America in 1914 and at the present time keeps house for her brother. She is a charming young lady, with many accomplishments.

In his ministrations to the people of Putnam county as pastor and priest, the Rev. Father Gerwert has won for himself a distinct place in the hearts of his parishioners. He is a man who is truly loved and widely admired, both for his devotion and for his learning.

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### JACOB G. KNEPPER.

The final causes which shape the fortunes of individual men and the destinies of states are often the same. They are usually remote and obscure, their influence wholly unexpected until declared by results. When they inspire men to the exercise of courage, self-denial, enterprise, industry and call into play the higher moral elements; when they lead men to risk all upon conviction, faith—such causes lead to the planning of great states, great nations, great people. That country is the greatest which produces the most manly man. The intrinsic safety depends not so much upon methods and measures as upon that true manhood from whose deep sources all that is precious and permanent in life must at last proceed. Such a result may not be consciously contemplated by the individuals instrumental in producing the civilization of a country, pursuing each his personal good by exalted means, they work out this by a logical result. They have wrought on the lines of the greatest good. In reviewing the life of such a person we look back over the pathway he has trod and note its high-water mark of usefulness, its points worthy of emulation and perpetuation. What Jacob G. Knepper, of Gilboa, Putnam county, Ohio, has done for his fellow-men and the com-



JACOB G. KNEPPER.





munity in general, might in a manner be told in words, but in its far-reaching influences cannot be measured. For two generations Jacob G. Knepper has been a power and influence in Gilboa and surrounding country.

Jacob G. Knepper was born on June 14, 1839, in Hancock county, Ohio, seven miles west of Findlay. He is a son of John and Elizabeth (Foglesong) Knepper. John Knepper was born in 1802 in Fairfield county, Ohio; was a son of Jacob Knepper and wife, who were both natives of Germany, and who emigrated to this country in the early days and settled in Fairfield county. He was a miller by trade, which vocation he followed after coming to America. He owned and operated a grist-mill for a great many years, which was located on Walnut Creek, seven miles west of Lancaster. John Knepper was one of twelve children. He remained with his father and assisted in operating the mill until he was thirty-two years of age, when he moved to Hancock county, Ohio, where he entered land from the government in Blanchard township, one mile east of Benton Ridge. He moved into the woods, cleared his land and built a log cabin. Later he entered land in several sections, in all, about six hundred acres. He was more fortunate than most of the pioneers of those days, as he had some money.

When about twenty-one years of age John Knepper married Elizabeth Foglesong in Fairfield county. She was born in October, 1802, and was a daughter of Christian and Susan (Arnold) Foglesong. Her parents came from Maryland in an early day and settled in Fairfield county, Ohio. To this union were born nine children, of whom Jacob G. Knepper was the youngest. John Knepper died on June 1, 1840, in Hancock county, Ohio, and in 1845 Mrs. John Knepper married Peter Wise, but there were no children born to this union.

Jacob G. Knepper received his education in the district schools of Hancock county, Ohio, and was a student for one year at Otterbein University, at Westerville, Ohio, and subsequently attended school one year at Findlay. He remained at home until the outbreak of the Civil War, and in August, 1862, Mr. Knepper enlisted for service in the Union army in Company D, Ninety-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving until July 17, 1865. He served under Gen. Thomas Van Cleave, and also under General Schofield in the Army of the Cumberland until January 1, 1865, when he was transferred to the army of the east. He took the boat at Alexandria and landed in North Carolina, where his corps met the army of General Sherman at the end of its march from Atlanta to the sea. He was finally mustered out of the service at Salisbury, North Carolina, on June 26, 1865.

and was discharged on July 17, 1865, at Camp Dennison, Ohio. He was taken prisoner at Stone River, Tennessee, in the fall of 1862, but was held only two hours, when he made his escape to the Union lines. He participated in the battles of Stone River, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Chickamauga, Resaca, Jonesboro and Kenesaw Mountain, and finally at the battle of Nashville.

After the close of the war Mr. Knepper returned home and worked on his mother's farm, and in March, 1866, was married to Mary E. Foltz, the daughter of Noah and Mary Foltz, who were residents of Eagle township, Hancock county, Ohio.

After his marriage Mr. Knepper continued to farm the old homestead until August, 1873, when he moved to a farm in the extreme western part of Blanchard township, Hancock county. Here he remained until May, 1897, and during all of this time he was engaged in general farming, and was unusually successful.

He retired from active farm life in May, 1897, and moved to Gilboa, Putnam county. He became interested in the Gilboa Stone Company in 1900, which connection he retained until 1904. He retained his interests, however, in this company until 1907, in which year Mr. Knepper became a stockholder in the Gilboa Banking Company and a director of this bank. He was elected president of this bank in January, 1913. He holds this office at the present time.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob G. Knepper are the parents of nine children, namely: Noah W., married Jennie Laub, and they have four children, one of whom died in infancy. Mrs. Noah Knepper died about five or six years after her marriage, and Noah Knepper later married a widow of Marine City, Michigan, and to this union one daughter has been born. They reside at Marine City. Jennie, the second child of Jacob Knepper, is the wife of Kelly Laub, and they have three children, two daughters and one son, and reside in Findlay; Mary Elizabeth and Ada C. both died in early childhood; Viola is the wife of J. B. Thomas, and they have one daughter and live near West Cairo, Allen county, Ohio; Adam M. married Lilly Haddox, and they have four children, one dying in infancy, and reside at Delphos, Ohio; Charles Albert married Sylvia Tullis, and are residents of Leipsic, Ohio; Nellie died at the age of eighteen, December 31, 1903; Laura L. is the wife of L. A. Kemerly, and lives at Carey, Ohio; N. Harrison married Stella Buchland, and they have three children, two sons and one daughter.

Mr. Knepper is an ardent Republican, and has always taken an active interest in local political matters. He served as land appraiser in 1890 in

Hancock county, and was also trustee of Blanchard township, that county, for one term, his term of office beginning in 1876. He was appointed postmaster of Gilboa and took this office on April 1, 1904, and held it until July 31, 1912, a period of eight years. He also served on the town council several terms. Mr. Knepper is a member of Lindsay Post, No. 75, Grand Army of the Republic, and also belongs to Gilboa Lodge, No. 459, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

That Jacob Knepper is a highly respected and influential citizen, is evidenced by the many positions of honor and trust which he has held. He is a man of sterling integrity and a progressive citizen.

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#### PROF. HARRY MILES JAY.

It is not always easy to define the hidden forces that move a young man to large professional success. Little more can be done than to note the forces and call attention to them. The career of Prof. Harry Miles Jay, the present superintendent of the Kalida public schools, is a striking example of the power of well-defined purpose. Professor Jay has been able to make his ability count in the attainment, not only of his own ambitions, but for the good of his fellow men as well. For several years he has held distinctive prestige in the educational field, which requires for its success particularly strong mentality, rigid discipline of a high order and wide professional training. Although a comparatively young man, Professor Jay has attained a high degree of success and has an excellent standing among the educators of Putnam county, Ohio.

Harry Miles Jay was born in Newton township, Miami county, Ohio, three and one-half miles west of Pleasant Hill, November 4, 1888. He is the son of James and Susana (Miles) Jay, both of whom were natives of Ohio. The Jay family were of English origin and were among the very earliest settlers in Miami county. The paternal grandfather of Professor Jay, who settled on two hundred acres of land in Miami county, which he cleared of the primitive timber. He drained the land and made out of it a productive and fertile farm. His children were Joseph, Jonathan, William, Moses, Martha, and James, the father of Professor Jay. Jonathan became a minister in the Friends church and preached for many years.

The maternal grandparents of Professor Jay were Henry Miles and wife, who were early settlers in Miami county, where they lived on a farm. Their

children were Cora, Linnie, Mark and Susana, the mother of Professor Jay. They were members of the Friends church.

James Jay, the father of Professor Jay, was educated in the common schools of Miami county, Ohio. He also took a course in the Northern Indiana University at Valparaiso, and, after returning from college, worked on his father's farm. He purchased and cleared forty acres of land in Newton township, in Miami county, before his marriage. After his marriage to Susana Miles he moved to his farm, where he had previously erected a dwelling. He continued farming on this place until 1892, when he died, and was buried in Union cemetery in Miami county. His wife now resides with her son, Professor Jay, at Kalida. James and Susana (Miles) Jay were the parents of six children, Della, Matilda, Alice, Wade, Russell and Henry. Of these children, Della married Henry Klopfer, who live on the Red Top farm near Piqua, Miami county, Ohio, and have five children; Matilda married Moses Tucker, of Nebraska, and they live in Idaho, where they moved in 1913, from Nebraska, and they have six children; Wade married Clara Agnes, and they live near Covington, in Miami county, and have two children; Russell married Rosa Good and is the pastor of the First Christian church at Elkhart, Indiana. He was educated at Defiance College and took the four years' academic course. He also took a four years' theological course at Defiance. Harry Miles Jay was educated first in district No. 7, Newton township, Miami county, Ohio, and was graduated from the county schools in 1904. He then attended the Pleasant Hill high school for four years and was graduated in 1907. After that he took a collegiate course in Defiance College and was graduated in 1911, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. After this, he took a post-graduate course of one year, taking the degree of Master of Arts.

Professor Jay was married on January 1, 1914, to Mabel Adams, of Defiance, Ohio, the daughter of John and Phoebe (Rettig) Adams, who were the parents of the following children: Irving, Lester, Mabel, Grace and Ruth. Mr. and Mrs. John Adams are still living in Defiance. Mr. Adams is a machinist.

After their marriage, Professor and Mrs. Jay moved to Kalida, Ohio. He had accepted a position as principal of the Kalida high school and served for two years, from 1911 to 1913. During 1913 and 1914 he was superintendent of the Kalida schools, and from 1914 to the present time he has served as district superintendent of supervision No. 8, Putnam county, Ohio. To Henry Miles and Mabel (Adams) Jay have been born one child, John Adams. He was born on October 26, 1914.

Prof. Henry Miles Jay is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons

at Ottawa. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Professor Jay is a master of the Masonic lodge No. 280 at Kalida. He is generally regarded as a man of high professional attainments, is a man of pleasing disposition and of splendid executive ability. He has advanced steadily in the educational sphere of this county and has filled several positions with great credit.

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### J. AUGUST SMITH.

The object of a work of this character is not so much to portray the virtues of the present generation as to preserve for posterity the family records upon which, in succeeding generations, a proper degree of family unity may be based and maintained. The compilation of the records herein presented, and in which the leading families of Putnam county have taken so large and so commendable a degree of interest, is not only valuable as a source of information to the present generation in this county, but will be the object of deepest gratitude on the part of generations yet unborn, for here are arrayed facts of family history, which, without being thus assembled and preserved, inevitably would have been lost, at least in a large part, to the very great deprivation of that sense of family unity, so properly prideful a quality in human kind. Among the old families in Putnam county which have been properly aroused to the value of this form of preservation of family records, the family of L. Jacob Smith is entitled to special mention, for in this volume of biography five of Mr. Smith's sons have modestly sought to preserve the data upon which their families are founded, for the benefit of posterity, a most commendable ambition and one worthy of the widest emulation. In the biographical sketch relating to the eldest brother of this family, Frank Smith, presented elsewhere in this volume, the genealogy of the family is set out at length, and it will be sufficient, in this connection, to deal in a merely introductory fashion with that feature of the biography of the gentleman whose name is noted above.

J. August Smith was born on a farm near the town of Kalida, in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, May 13, 1882, the son of L. Jacob and Florentine (Verhoff) Smith, both of whom were members of old and prominent families in this county. J. August Smith was reared on the paternal farm and received his early education in the excellent schools of Union township. He remained on his father's farm until he was twenty-one years of age, when he began working the farm of his brother-in-law, Joseph Kahle, where he re-

mained four years, at the end of which time he bought ninety-three acres of land in sections 20 and 21, in Union township, a portion of the Frank Kahle estate, and moved upon this farm after his marriage, in 1908, and has lived there ever since, firmly establishing himself as one of the leading young farmers of that part of the county, his progressive and up-to-date methods of farming having insured his success in his chosen calling.

On May 6, 1908, J. August Smith was united in marriage to Leonora Annesser, daughter of William and Theresa (Myers) Annesser, who lived at that time in Union township, but who later moved to a farm in the province of Ontario, Canada, where they now reside. Mrs. Smith is the eldest of the six surviving children of Mr. and Mrs. Annesser, the others being John, Wilhelmina, Anna, Helena and Alice.

To J. August and Leonora (Annesser) Smith have been born three children, as follow: Harry, on January 10, 1911; George, May 28, 1913, now deceased, and Gerald, February 25, 1915.

J. August Smith and wife are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, and are warmly interested in the good works of that parish, Mr. Smith being one of the trustees of the local branch of the Catholic Knights of Ohio. He likewise is interested in all other good works in the community, and is, as well, interested in the general public welfare, being an earnest promoter of public improvements of a general character. He is one of the directors of construction of the Mutual Telephone Company, at Kalida.

J. August Smith is a substantial young farmer and he and his wife are deservedly popular in their large circle of acquaintances, their unvarying courtesy and gentle qualities making them favorites with all

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#### WILLIAM SMITH.

Elsewhere in this volume of biography of the important citizens of Putnam county, there is presented at some length the genealogy of the Smith family, so long and so well known in the Kalida neighborhood in Union township, this county, the fourth generation of which in this section of the state is now doing well its part in the development of the best interests of that excellent community, following nobly the admirable example of social and civic worth set by the forbears of that family in this county. So admirable has been the spirit uniformly displayed by the members of this family in its attitude toward the communal interests, that it is a pleasure to present here

another sketch relating to one of the present-day active members of the family, and to this end the biographer asks the reader's attention to the following brief review of the life of the gentleman whose name appears above.

William Smith, one of the sons of L. Jacob and Florentine (Verhoff) Smith, was born on the paternal homestead near Kalida, in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, October 28, 1879, and has lived all his life in that neighborhood, occupying today the position of one of the leading men in that community, as were his father and his grandfather before him. Though the local readers of this biography need no introduction to the Smith family in Union township, it may be said, in passing here, that further details of the genealogy of William Smith may be found in the sketch pertaining to his elder brother, Frank Smith, presented elsewhere in this volume, which traces the family descent from the first of that line to locate in this section. The genealogy of the Verhoff family, the family of Mr. Smith's mother, may be found in the sketch relating to Theodore Verhoff, of Greensburg township, her brother, elsewhere in this volume.

William Smith was reared on the paternal farm in Union township, the same on which his brother, Frank, now resides, and received his early education in the schools of that neighborhood, the period of his young manhood being spent on the home farm. For six years previous to his marriage, he worked on the farms of others in the neighborhood, the labors of the home farm not requiring the services of all the stalwart sons of the proprietor, but after his marriage, in 1909, he moved to the farm of eighty acres on which he now lives in Union township, he having previously bought this place in anticipation of marriage and the establishment of a new home. He moved the house in which he now lives to its present location, it having stood a short distance to the north at the time he bought the place. In many ways he has improved this place and has brought it up to a high standard of cultivation, making it a productive and attractive farm. Mr. Smith is an intelligent and industrious young farmer and is contemplating numerous other improvements to his already well-ordered place. In addition to his own farm of eighty acres, Mr. Smith works a tract of twenty-three acres adjoining, which belongs to his father, the venerable L. Jacob Smith, who is living a life of pleasant retirement in Kalida, where he established a comfortable home some years ago upon coming to the decision to retire and enjoy the fruits of a long life of honorable activity.

On October 20, 1909, William Smith was united in marriage to Clara Rampe, the daughter of Frank and Anna (Doepker) Rampe, members of one of the oldest and best-known families in Putnam county, frequent refer-

ence to which family is made in this volume, both of whom were born in the Glandorf neighborhood, where Mr. Smith's bride grew to womanhood. Mr. and Mrs. Rampe some years ago retired from the farm on which they had so long resided and are now living in retirement in the town of Kalida, this county, where they have the esteem of all who know them. They are the parents of five children, three sons and three daughters, the others being Frank, Hubert, Anna, Ella and Clark.

To William and Clara (Rampe) Smith four children have been born, as follow: Louise, August 30, 1910; Rudolph, April 14, 1912; Edwin, December 15, 1913, and Stephen, March 10, 1915, a most interesting little family which makes the Smith home a continuous scene of merriment and joy.

William Smith and wife are members of the St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, in the various beneficences of which they are earnestly interested, and Mr. Smith is a member of the St. Joseph's Benevolent Society, in the affairs of which he takes a warm interest, being one of the most generous contributors to the general work of the parish. The Smith family, in that section of the county, are all interested in the good works of the community in which they live. With an honorable ancestry back of them it is not unnatural that they should possess a pardonable degree of family pride and it is gratifying to note that this commendable regard for family and a proper desire to perpetuate the family records has prompted five of the sons of L. Jacob Smith to furnish data to the present biographer upon which to construct biographical sketches for this valuable history of the prominent citizens of Putnam county, an instance of family consideration which their descendants will appreciate greatly in the years to come and for which generations yet unborn will thank them.

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#### ANTHONY SMITH.

Pride of family is one of the most commendable of human virtues. "Rely upon it that the man who does not worthily estimate his own dead forefathers will himself do very little to add credit or do honor to his country." This quotation, from William E. Gladstone, touches at the very heart of the matter. The desire, therefore, on the part of so many of the prominent citizens of Putnam county to preserve family records in this volume bespeaks a very high degree of patriotism as well as the most justifiable pride of family and the community at large cannot but be bettered and strengthened by this



display of patriotism, this interesting manifestation of a general desire on the part of well-thinking people to create a closer degree of family unity and to preserve for the coming generations invaluable family data that inevitably would be lost without this or some similar form of preservation. The readers of this volume will notice with interest that the five sons of L. Jacob Smith have very properly availed themselves of this general medium as a means of handing down to their posterity in orderly array the data upon which to base a family unity that will be a source of pride of the most commendable sort to generations yet to come. Frank, William, Hubert, August and Anthony Smith have furnished to the biographer data relating to their immediate families and it is a pleasure here to present the biography of the last named, the others being found on other pages in this volume. In the biography of Frank Smith, the eldest son of L. Jacob and Florentine (Verhoff) Smith, there is presented at length the genealogy of the paternal branch of this family in Putnam county, while elsewhere the Verhoff side finds equally interesting presentation under the head of Theodore Verhoff, of Greensburg township, brother of the mother of the Smith brothers.

Anthony Smith, son of L. Jacob and Florentine (Verhoff) Smith, was born on a farm near the town of Kalida, Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, on April 17, 1885, and grew to manhood on the parental farm, receiving his education in the excellent schools of that township. He remained on his father's home place until his marriage, in 1911, after which he bought fifty acres of his father's farm and established a home for himself. He erected the buildings now standing upon this place and has otherwise improved the same, bringing the farm to a high state of cultivation. He has but recently built a substantial addition to his house and now has one of the most comfortable and delightful homes in that part of the county. He is a young farmer of the progressive type to which Putnam county is beginning to owe so much and in his methods follows up-to-date principles of farming, assuring for himself a degree of success which is most gratifying to his friends.

On May 3, 1911, Anthony Smith was united in marriage to Magdalena Schroeder, daughter of William and Anna (Rieman) Schroeder, both of whom were born in Greensburg township, this county, and who were the parents of ten children, Katherine, Henry, Clara, May, Nora, Magdalena, Francis, Caroline, Elizabeth and Laura. Of these Katherine married W. Schierloh and lives in Greensburg township, this county; Henry married Theresa Verhoff and also lives in Greensburg township; Clara married William Verhoff and lives in Union township; Mary married Ignatius Verhoff

and is now a widow, and Flora married Frank Verhoff and lives in Greensburg township. Mr. and Mrs. Schroeder are still living on their farm in Greensburg township and enjoy the highest esteem of all who know them.

The paternal grandparents of ancestry of subject's wife, Magdalena Schroeder, wife of Anthony Smith, Henry and Catherine (Hohenbrink) Schroeder, who were natives of Germany and came to this country and located near Glandorf, Putnam county. They were the parents of the following children: John, Mary, William, Charles, Anna, Theresa, Mathias, Clara, Doratha, Ignatius, Catherine, Philomena and Frank. Her maternal grandparents were John and Clara (Mahinne) Rieman, who also were natives of Germany, and came to this country, where they settled near Glandorf, in Putnam county. They had the following children: Frank, Mary, John, Bernadina, Henry, Bernard, Anna, Charles and Ignatius.

To Anthony and Magdalena (Schroeder) Smith two children have been born: Gilber, on July 10, 1912, and Edward, May 16, 1914. Anthony Smith and wife are devoted members of St. Michael's Catholic church and have submitted their children to the ordinances of that historic communion. Mr. Smith is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio and of St. Joseph's Benevolent Society and is otherwise active in the work of the parish, being regarded as an energetic exponent of all measures which have to do with the good of the community at large, one of the leading citizens of that part of the county.

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### WILLIAM WASHINGTON SCHAFER.

Among the many able, intelligent, substantial and successful farmers of German birth or descent, who have added so much to the material wealth of Putnam county, none is more worthily entitled to mention in this volume of biography, than William Washington Schafer, who was born in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, on December 17, 1869, the son of William and Mary (Morris) Schafer, the former of whom was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, the son of Philip Jacob and Elizabeth Schafer, and the latter of whom was born in Allen county, Ohio, the daughter of Henry and Margaret (Weaver) Morris, pioneers of that section of the state.

William Schafer, the elder, was bereft of his father when he was a child and his mother married, secondly, Jacob Huffman, in company with whom she and her two sons, William and Michael, came to America, proceeding to Putnam county, Ohio, where they settled on a farm of one hundred and

twenty acres in Sugar Creek township, where William grew to manhood. He helped clear this land and rapidly adjusted himself to the conditions which confronted him in his adopted country. At the age of twenty-five he married and for a short time thereafter lived in Allen county, later returning to Putnam county, where he bought a tract of eighty acres in Palmer township, to which was added an equal tract his wife had received from her father. This farm of one hundred and sixty acres, he cleared and improved by the erection of a good type of buildings and soon brought to a high state of cultivation, upon which he made many improvements, chief among which was the erection of many buildings of modern type. He later sold a portion of this land, which became the town site for the village of North Creek and later became one of the most substantial and influential residents of that part of the county. For a period of thirty-six years, continuously, William Schafer served his township in the capacity of justice of the peace, his magisterial rulings very rarely being appealed, and in that time did very much toward bringing to a proper state of social and economic development the community to which he became so devotedly attached and in which he was held in the very highest regard by all his neighbors. He had also given good service to the public in other local offices. William Schafer was a member of the German Lutheran church, while his wife was an adherent of the Primitive Baptist faith.

William W. Schafer married Mary Morris, daughter of Henry and Margaret (Weaver) Morris, early settlers in Allen county, this state, Henry Morris having been one of the first judges of the circuit comprised in the counties of Allen and Putnam, the court in this county at that time being held in the town of Kalida. Judge Morris was a Democrat and was a man of large influence in the counsels of his party in this section of the state. As a judge, he attained a reputation for fairness and justice which is not forgotten to this day and in all things was a high, honorable and upright gentleman who did well his part in the upbuilding of the community in which his good influence was so widely exerted. Not only was he widely known for his judicial qualities, but he was equally well known throughout this section as a minister of the gospel, holding to the Baptist faith and for many years occupied the pulpit of the Baptist church at Vaughnsville, his sermons being noted for their great earnestness and power. The home of the Morris was in Allen county. To Henry and Margaret (Weaver) Morris were born nine children, George, Elizabeth, Joseph, Henry, John, Sarah, Lavina, Mary Ellen and Katherine.

To William and Mary (Morris) Schafer were born twelve children, all of whom are living save the last born, Surilda May, the others being Henry Philip, John Sylvester, Mary Catherine, William Washington, George Lewis,

Charles Clifford, Sarah Elizabeth, Mary Emmaline, Ida Lavina, Benjamin Franklin and Joseph Jefferson. The parents of these children are both dead, the death of the mother having occurred in October, 1902, and that of the father on January 1, 1904. Michael Schafer, brother of William, served his adopted country faithfully and well during the Civil War, as a member of an Ohio regiment and at the close of the war he engaged in farming in Putnam county and later located at Delphos, this state, where he spent the rest of his life.

William Washington Schafer was reared on his father's farm in Palmer township and received his early education in the North Creek school. During his young manhood he worked on his father's farm, but following his marriage, at the age of twenty-five years, he moved to Defiance county, Ohio, where he bought a farm of forty acres in Highland township and later twenty-eight more acres adjoining in Putnam county, and there he lived for thirteen years, at the end of which time he returned to Putnam county and bought the farm on which he is now living in Greensburg township. This place originally consisted of eighty acres, which now gives him one of the most compact and highly developed farms in his part of the county. On this farm he has erected splendid buildings, a beautiful dwelling house and a large and admirably-appointed barn, with outbuildings of all kinds to match, making his farm one of the best appearing places in the county. His house is one of the best equipped, in point of domestic convenience, in the neighborhood and his barn is supplied with all the modern devices for the efficient management of a successful farm.

On October 4, 1894, Mr. Schafer was united in marriage to Luta Gertrude Pilcher, the daughter of William and Mary (Wingate) Pilcher, well known residents of Monroe township, this county. William Pilcher and wife were both natives of England, who came to America, proceeding to Ohio, in which state they were married. After their marriage they lived for a time at Findlay and at Belmore, Ohio, and then came to Putnam county, locating in Monroe township, where they are still living. They are the parents of nine children, Reuben; Milton; Clara; Stephen; Nellie; Frank, deceased; Edward; Luta and Etta.

To William Washington and Luta Gertrude (Pilcher) Schafer have been born seven children, all of whom are at home, as follow: Clarence Frederick, on August 21, 1895; Nellie Viola, June 14, 1897; Gladys Caroline, January 17, 1899; Lavina May, April 24, 1901; William Glenn, February 5, 1904; Blanche Gertrude, May 19, 1906, and Mary Frances, September 24, 1909; an interesting family who contribute very largely to the social activities

of their neighborhood, in which all are very popular and held in the highest esteem by their large circle of acquaintances. William W. Schafer and wife hold to the Baptist church, but are not active members. They are deeply interested in all movements designed to elevate the standards of citizenship in their community and are very properly regarded as among the leaders in the good works of that part of the county, a most estimable couple who have done and are doing well their part in the development of the neighborhood's best interests.

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#### HUBERT SMITH.

Elsewhere in this valuable work of biographical reference, mention is made of the value of the services to this commonwealth of the Smith family, descendants of one of the best-known German emigrants of the early days of Putnam county. That reference is contained in the interesting biographical sketch of Frank J. Smith, elder brother of the subject of this sketch, and it is a pleasure for the biographer here to present some additional facts relating to this family in connection with this sketch of the life of Hubert Smith, one of the best-known and most progressive farmers of Greensburg township.

Hubert Smith was born in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, January 26, 1875, the son of L. Jacob and Florentine (Verhoff) Smith, the genealogy of the former of whom will be found by the reader in the sketch of Frank J. Smith, above referred to, and the genealogy of the latter of whom will be found contained in the sketch presented elsewhere under the head of Theodore Verhoff, of Greensburg township, a brother of Mr. Smith's mother.

Hubert Smith was reared on the paternal farm in Union township and received his education in the township schools. He remained on his father's farm until his marriage, after which he moved upon his present farm of two hundred and eighty acres, in Greensburg township, which he purchased, and where he has ever since made his home, being today reckoned as among the leading farmers of that section of the county. Since buying this farm, Mr. Smith has greatly enlarged upon its improvements, erecting all the buildings now standing upon it, and which are of a very high class, his home in particular, being one of the models of that neighborhood. In all its appointments, his farm is kept up to the highest standard of modern agriculture, the surroundings are neat and orderly and the general air of the place speaks loudly of the systematic methods and precision of the owner.

On November 7, 1900, Hubert Smith was united in marriage to Amelia Kahle, the daughter of Frank and Bernadina Kahle, one of the old families of Putnam county, whose genealogy is set out in the biographical sketch of Frank Kahle, of Greensburg township, presented elsewhere in this volume.

To Hubert and Amelia (Kahle) Smith have been born eight children, as follow: Wilfred, on December 26, 1901; Bertha, September 15, 1903; Joseph, August 29, 1905; Leo, November 5, 1907; Alfred, May 21, 1909; Ignatius, February 5, 1911, and Peter and Paul, twins, April 19, 1914.

Hubert Smith and wife are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, in the affairs of which parish they are warmly interested and to which they are deeply devoted, and they are rearing their children in the same faith. Mr. Smith is a member of St. Joseph's Benevolent Society and takes an active part in the affairs of that beneficent organization. He is a Democrat and gives a good citizen's attention to political affairs, being much interested in all matters relating to good government. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are very popular in the wide social set in which they move in the Kalida neighborhood, and are very properly regarded as among the leaders in the life of that community. He is a man of advanced ideas in the science of agriculture and is known as an intelligent, business-like farmer, who is making a fine success of his life's work. In addition to general farming in which he engages, he has given considerable attention to the raising of blooded stock, his choice Hereford cattle and thoroughbred Belgian horses have something more than a local reputation.

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#### THEODORE HENRY RUHE.

Theodore H. Ruhe is a well-known and popular young farmer of Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio. Here his labors have been performed and here he is well known as a man of keen perceptive faculties, unusually sound judgment and upright dealings with all of his neighbors and fellow citizens, and his name today stands high on the roll of the meritorious young men and farmers of Putnam county.

Theodore Henry Ruhe was born on March 8, 1886, in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is a son of Anthony and Sophia (Henken) Ruhe. Anthony Ruhe was born in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, February 28, 1857, and is a son of Joseph and Mary Anna (Wittkamp) Ruhe, both of whom were natives of Germany and were born

in about the same locality, where they grew to maturity and were married. They emigrated to the United States in an early day and first settled on forty acres of land situated about three miles south of Glandorf, Putnam county. Joseph Ruhe accumulated about one hundred and sixty acres of land in the county, and was a substantial citizen of his community. He assisted in building the Miami and Erie canal, and in this way helped to pay for his land. His death occurred on December 28, 1879, at the age of sixty-seven years, after having a useful and industrious life. His death occurred suddenly, while he was attending divine service in the Catholic church at Glandorf, where he was a member. His widow survived him some years, and died on the homestead farm during September, 1896. They were the parents of the following children: Barney, of Liberty township; Mrs. Thresia Hinken, of Covington, Kentucky; Mrs. Josephine Knueve, deceased; Henry, who lives on the homestead farm; Mrs. Catherine Werketter, of Williams county, Ohio; Anthony, Joseph and Theodore. Anthony Ruhe was married at the age of twenty-three, on November 24, 1881, to Sophia Henken, the daughter of Christopher and Mary Angeline (Obke) Henken, both of whom were natives of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Ruhe were the parents of the following children: Frank, who married Elizabeth Kleman, of Liberty township; George, who married Frances Hovest, and lives in Pleasant township; Theodore, who is the immediate subject of this sketch; Otto Frederick and Philomina, living with their parents. A complete history of the Ruhe family is found elsewhere in this volume in the sketch of Anthony Ruhe.

Theodore Henry Ruhe was educated in the township schools of Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, and he was also a student in the Ottawa township school. He grew up on his father's farm and was reared to the life of a farmer. He remained at home until his marriage, January 19, 1910, to Lucy Meyer, the daughter of Henry and Catherine (Ellerbrock) Meyer. Mrs. Ruhe's parental history appears elsewhere in this volume in the sketch of Charles Ellerbrock. Theodore H. and Lucy (Meyer) Ruhe are the parents of three children, Urban, born on November 6, 1910; Alvin, September 28, 1912, and Norma, October 3, 1914.

Theodore H. Ruhe removed to his present farm in section 24, of Palmer township, north of Miller City, after his marriage in 1910. The land was cleared and improved when he moved here, and the residence and barn had already been built. Mr. Ruhe has added several other outbuildings and made additional improvements, so that his farm is now well-equipped for general farming and stock raising. He farms eighty acres of a hundred-

acre tract which was deeded to him by his father. The remaining twenty acres is operated by his brother, Frank, of Liberty township, this county.

Theodore Henry Ruhe is a Democrat in politics, but so far has not taken any active part in political affairs. Ruhe and wife are devout members of St. Nicholas's Catholic church, of Miller City, where Mrs. Ruhe belongs to the Mother's Aid Society of her church. Mr. Ruhe is a congenial young farmer, a hard worker and concentrates himself upon his farm duties. He bears a high reputation in this community, and is devoted to his home, his wife and his family, and they are all very happy. He has every reason to look forward to a bright and promising future.

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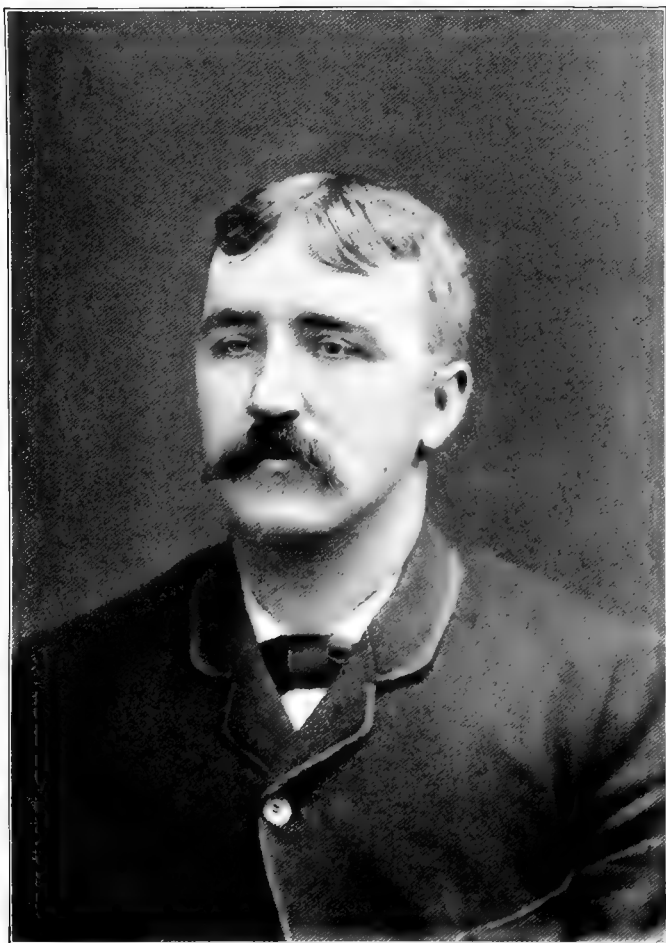
### JOHN FREDERICK KIMMERLE.

The business men of any community are those upon whom the community is largely dependent for its prosperity and progress. If these men happen to be progressive, alert and wide-awake, then the community is very likely to prosper. The late John Frederick Kimmerle, during his lifetime, had, perhaps, as much to do with the prosperity and progress of this section of Putnam county as any other man in the township. For many years he was actively identified with its business life in several capacities. Mr. Kimmerle first made a success of the hotel business, and after that was engaged successfully for many years in the mercantile business. In the meantime he had acquired considerable farm property, and was a wealthy man at the time of his death. The late John Frederick Kimmerle, throughout his entire business career, was a man who never sacrificed principles for dollars. He believed in public improvement, and gave what aid he could toward the civic advancement of his native township. He was a man whose loss was keenly felt by the people of Union township, with whom he was so vitally connected for so many years.

John Frederick Kimmerle was born on January 18, 1856, in New California, Union county, Ohio. He was a son of John F. and Anna B. (Dittus) Kimmerle, both of whom were born in Germany.

John F. Kimmerle was married first in Germany. His wife died there, leaving one child, Catherine. After her death John F. Kimmerle embarked for America, and while en route met Anna Dittus, a passenger. She volunteered to assist in caring for the child. From this acquaintance sprang up a mutual attachment, which resulted in their marriage when they landed in





JOHN FREDERICK KIMMERLE.



this country. They came to Union county, Ohio, where they settled in New California. He became a farmer. John F. and Anna (Dittus) Kimmerle had several children, as follow: Louise, Mary, Amalia, Urica, Marion, Gottlieb and J. Frederick, deceased. Subsequently the parents of these children moved to Jackson township, Putnam county, Ohio, and settled on a farm. There they lived until their death. They were members of the German Lutheran church.

The late John Frederick Kimmerle attended school in Putnam county, Ohio, and worked on a farm. Early in life, in partnership with Henry Rower, he engaged in the manufacture of tile. They established this business at Ottoville. He then sold out and engaged in the hotel business at Kalida.

Mr. Kimmerle was married on February 6, 1887, to Mary Parsell, the daughter of John and Charity (Eyer) Parsell. Charity (Eyer) Parsell, the mother of Mrs. Kimmerle, was born on February 14, 1836, in Fairfield county, Ohio. She was the daughter of John and Abigail Eyer. John and Abigail Eyer were born in Pennsylvania and were married in that state. John Eyer had previously married a Miss McLaughlin, and by that marriage there were four children, Adesta, Mary, Levina and a son William, who died young. After his second marriage John Eyer and wife came to Fairfield county, Ohio, and settled there. He worked at the carpenter trade, and also did some farming. He and his family moved to Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, about 1853, and settled on a farm. The children by his second marriage were: Charity, the mother of Mrs. Kimmerle, Cyrus and Jacob. Of the children of John Eyer, Augusta married William Hamilton, of Fairfield county. Later they moved to Putnam county and lived first in Jackson and then in Union township. Both are deceased; Mary married John Piercey, who lived in Willshire, Van Wert county, until their death; Lavina was first married to Joshua Algire. Her second husband was William Dicus, deceased. She still lives in Jackson township, in Putnam county. Charity married John Parsell. They were the parents of Mrs. Kimmerle; Cyrus married Elizabeth Jeery. They live on a farm in Union township; Jacob married Edna Beech. They are still living in Kalida. Jacob served in the Civil War in the One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He enlisted at Kalida in Company H, and was mustered out at Salisbury, North Carolina. He served, with commendable valor, for three years under General Scofield, and participated in a number of battles. John and Abigail Eyer died in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio. They

were members of the Methodist church. Charity (Eyer) Parsell, the mother of Mrs. Kimmerle, died on March 2, 1905.

John Parsell, father of Mrs. John Frederick Kimmerle, was born in Lincoln, Ohio, December 1, 1833, and died on July 22, 1901. When twenty-five years of age he came to Putnam county. He learned the carpenter trade in Lincoln county, and also farmed in that county. He worked at the carpenter trade in Putnam county, and was married in 1860 to Charity Eyer. He was also a soldier in the Civil War, having served in Company H, One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He served under Colonel Mott and Captain Moore. After he returned from the war he worked as a carpenter until his death. His children were Margaret, Mary, Sarah, Vinnie and John. Of these children Margaret married J. B. Stauffer, and lives at Kalida; Sarah married George Claypool. They live in Findlay, Ohio; Vinnie married Fred Buck and lives in Toledo; John married Lillian Vinning and they live at St. Marys, Ohio; John Parsell, the father of these children, died on July 22, 1901. His wife died on March 2, 1905. They belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

After his marriage the late John Frederick Kimmerle engaged in the hotel business for three years, and then engaged in the general mercantile business at Kalida, one of the largest, in fact, in Putnam county. He and other associates founded the Peoples Bank at Kalida, now the only bank in this town. He founded the First National Bank at Kalida in 1904. A short time prior to his death he bought a general mercantile store in Cygnet, Ohio. He and his family moved there to take charge of it. Shortly after his arrival he became ill and went to Kramer, Indiana, for treatment. Realizing that he could receive no benefit from this treatment, he started home and got as far as Fort Jennings, Ohio, where he died, surrounded by his family.

The late John Frederick Kimmerle was the first president of the Peoples Bank at Kalida and the first president of the First National Bank at Kalida. He was also a stockholder in the Kalida Elevator Company.

To Mr. and Mrs. John Frederick Kimmerle five children were born, one son, the first child, died in infancy; Valarie, born on December 26, 1890, died in 1891; Frederick, born on March 19, 1893; Leonore, born on December 9, 1895, and Lula was born on July 23, 1898.

Mr. Kimmerle built and owned a business in Kalida in 1904. He also built a residence in Kalida, where the family now lives. Aside from this, Mr. Kimmerle possessed considerable other property, including three hun-

dred and fifty-four acres of farm land. He obtained the greatest part of his wealth after his marriage, and his phenomenal success was due largely through the co-operation of his wife, who was a woman of keen foresight and a faithful heplmate during her husband's life.

Mr. Kimmerle belonged to the Improved Order of Red Men, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mrs. Kimmerle is a member of the Daughters of Rebekah and the Daughters of Pocahontas. Mr. Kimmerle belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church. His son, Frederick, is a member of the Odd Fellows, and owns a large farm in Jackson township, Putnam county. The family is active in social affairs in this community and is highly respected.

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#### HENRY WING.

Perhaps the best known citizen of Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, is Henry Wing, who, with the exception of four years, has served continuously as postmaster of Miller City since 1889, a period of twenty-six years, twenty-two years of which Mr. Wing has filled this office. Of late years, Mr. Wing has been connected with the telephone exchange at Miller City. The federal government is very exacting of its public servants, and especially of postmasters, and it is a matter of great credit to Mr. Wing that he has held this office for so long a period. Perhaps it is the best testimonial that might be offered in support of his integrity, his business ability and his ability to please the patrons of this office.

Henry Wing was born on June 8, 1851, in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Jarvis and Sarah (Dangler) Wing, the latter of whom was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, the former of whom was born in Montgomery county, near Dayton.

The paternal grandparents of Henry Wing were Henry and Elnore (Frazee) Wing, the former of whom was born in Rockingham, Vermont, and the latter of whom was born in Pennsylvania. After their marriage they moved to Montgomery county, Ohio, and remained there for some time. Later, they moved to Putnam county, Ohio. This was about 1825, and at this time they settled in Greensburg township, on the Blanchard river. Henry Wing, Sr., first settled on the south side of the river, but later moved to the north side. He entered twenty-five acres of government land and erected primitive buildings. He cleared the land of the heavy timber and was killed in 1843 while working on the road being constructed between Ottawa and

Defiance. He was survived by his wife and the following children: Jarvis, Oliver, Rhoda, Henry, Elnora, Jane, Austin, Pauline, Cleopatra and Francis M. Of these children Henry, Austin and Frank served during the Civil War, in Ohio regiments. Austin served in the Fourth Ohio Cavalry for four years. Henry served three months. Frank was captured at Harpers Ferry, but was later paroled. Austin was captured at Murfreesboro and confined one month at Salisbury, North Carolina. The mother of these children died on the farm in Greensburg township.

Jarvis Wing was educated in the Greensburg township schools and before his marriage worked on his father's farm. After his marriage he continued to live on the homestead farm, which he had increased to two hundred and twenty-five acres. His father had purchased two hundred acres before his death, and Jarvis Wing bought this entire at the administrator's sale. Jarvis Wing was married to Sarah Dangler, daughter of John and Barbara (Kaylor) Dangler. John and Barbara (Kaylor) Dangler came from Pennsylvania after their marriage and settled in Greensburg township, bringing their family with them. Henry Wing's mother was but six years old when she came with her parents to Putnam county. The children of John and Barbara (Kaylor) Dangler were Jacob, John, Jr., George, Elizabeth, Catherine, Sarah and Henry. Both of these parents died in Greensburg township. During his life time Jarvis Wing worked on his farm in Greensburg township. To Jarvis and Sarah (Dangler) Wing were born the following children: Henry, the subject of this sketch; Barbara, deceased; Ellen, deceased; John; Charles, deceased; Oliver, and two who died in infancy. Jarvis Wing died in Palmer township and his wife died in Topeka, Ohio.

Henry Wing was educated in Greensburg township. During his early life he lived on the home farm. He was married on February 3, 1871, to Adelia Carver, daughter of William and Mariah (Kibby) Carver, of Loraine county, Ohio. William Carver served in an Ohio regiment during the Civil War and was killed in the battle of Gettysburg at Culp's Hill. William Carver and wife were the parents of three children, Elizabeth, Nora and Adelia, the wife of Mr. Wing.

Before his marriage, Mr. Wing went to Florida and was there engaged in farming. He was married in Florida and continued to live there for seven years. He then moved to Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, and engaged in farming for ten years. He then went into the saw-mill business and continued in this for some time. Mr. Wing was appointed postmaster of Miller City in 1889 and served continuously ever since with the exception of four years. He also has had charge of the telephone exchange at Miller City for the past sixteen years.

To Henry and Adelia (Carver) Wing have been born the following children: Nellie, Elizabeth, Lunette, Charles, Fred, Almeda, Edgar, Harold and Florence. Of these children, Nellie married William Binkley, and they live in Scott, Ohio; Lunette married L. B. Hoyt, and they have two children; Elizabeth married A. L. Harmon, and they live in San Francisco, California, and have one child; Charles is in the navy, where he has served twelve years on the battleship "New Jersey"; Fred married Elizabeth Frankhart, and they live in Bellevue, Ohio; Almeda married Al Jones, and they live in Cleveland, and have three children; Edgar, Harold and Florence are still attending school.

It is a matter of some interest that Henry Wing, Sr., the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, helped to survey Putnam county, assisting the government surveyor, Captain Riley, after whom Riley township was named. It is apparent that the Wing family have been identified with the history of Putnam county for many years, not only from this fact, but from the fact that Jarvis Wing, the father of Henry Wing, was brought to Putnam county when he was only six weeks old. Henry Wing is entitled to rank as a representative citizen of Putnam county and one who has had very much to do with its progress and growth.

Henry Wing is identified with the Republican party. He and his wife and family are all members of the Congregational church.

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#### CHARLES C. BORMAN.

Among the successful business men of his community, the subject of this review has had much to do in advancing the material interests of Putnam county, Ohio, and making it one of the important commercial centers of this section of the state. The study of such a life cannot fail of interest and incentive, for Mr. Borman is not only a distinctive representative of the banking business, but he has established a reputation for integrity and honor. He is now actively identified with the Peoples Banking Company of Kalida, as cashier, and is numbered among the substantial and worthy citizens of his community. None more than he deserves representation in a work of this character.

Charles C. Borman was born on December 23, 1880, in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is a son of Valentine and Julianna (Gieringer) Borman.

Valentine Borman was born in Germany and educated there. He served

in the German army, coming to America when about twenty-five years of age and settling in Cincinnati, Ohio. Here he started a livery business and later a restaurant. Valentine Borman was married first to Johanna Abele, and two children were born to this marriage. After the death of his first wife, he was again married to Julianna Geringer, a daughter of Anthony and Mary Ursula (Schwertzel) Gieringer. He continued to live in Cincinnati, Ohio, and seventeen years after his second marriage he moved to Glendorf, Ohio. Here he served as postmaster. Later, he moved to Coldwater, Ohio, where he lived until his death, April 15, 1906. His wife, Julianna (Gieringer) Borman, died on April 23, 1915. By his second marriage, six children were born, Addie, Anna Julia, Alvin, Charles, the subject of this sketch, and William. Anna married Joseph Witthwarn, who is now deceased, and his widow lives at Aurora, Illinois; Alvin married Gertrine Unverferth, and they live in Dayton, Ohio; Julia married Ben Nienberg, and they live at Glendorf, Ohio; William married Nora Fox and lives in Cincinnati, Ohio; Alvin served in the Spanish-American War, having enlisted in the Seventh United States Cavalry. He was in the battle of San Juan Hill.

Charles C. Borman, the subject of this sketch, left Cincinnati, Ohio, with his parents, at the age of ten years, coming to Glendorf, Ohio. Here he grew up, attending the schools of Glendorf and the Ottawa Normal School, in which he taught school for one summer. Mr. Borman also attended the Davis Business College at Toledo, Ohio, and after that, taught school for seven years, at New Cleveland, in Liberty township. He was superintendent of the schools at Miller City, in Palmer township, Putnam county, and was cashier in the bank at Coldwater, Ohio, for seven years. He sold out his banking interest to his brother, and, subsequently, entered the employ of the Butter Tub Company. He was with this company for one and one-half years, when he came to Kalida, Ohio, as the cashier of the Peoples Banking Company. This was in July, 1911. Since that time Mr. Borman has been active in the affairs of this bank. The Peoples Banking Company of Kalida does a remarkable business in this community, and not the least of the credit for this business is due to the energy, good judgment and management of Charles C. Borman.

Mr. Borman is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta, Ohio. He is a Democrat. He was corporation clerk at Glendorf at the age of twenty-one, and is now township treasurer at Kalida, Ohio, which is situated in Union township. Mr. Borman has held other minor offices, among which is that of councilman. He takes an active interest in the affairs of his party. Mr. Borman is a member of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida.



Charles C. Borman is well known for his democratic habits and is much admired for his sincerity and honesty of purpose. He is level-headed and well-informed on all matters pertaining to the banking business. He bears a high reputation in this community and is a representative citizen and thoroughly entitled to reputation in this volume.

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#### AUGUST G. VERHOFF.

There are individuals in nearly every community who, by reason of pronounced ability and force of character, rise above the heads of the masses and command the unbounded esteem of their fellowmen. Characterized by perseverance and a directing spirit, two virtues that never fail, such men always make their presence felt and the vigor of their strong personalities serves as a stimulus and incentive to the young and rising generation. To this energetic and enterprising class the subject of this review may properly belong. Having never been seized with the wanderlust spirit that has led many of Putnam county's young men to other fields of endeavor and states, August G. Verhoff has devoted himself to vocation as a farmer and to the public duties to which he has been called, and, because of his personal worth and accomplishments, he is clearly entitled to representation among the enterprising and progressive men of his locality.

August G. Verhoff is the descendant of a long line of sterling German ancestry, the full account of which is given elsewhere in this volume under the caption of Theodore Verhoff, his father, and was born on his father's farm on February 5, 1877, being the seventh son of Theodore and Elizabeth (Egbers) Verhoff. August Verhoff was educated in the schools of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, and until the age of twenty remained under the parental roof, where he gained practical experience in agriculture and stock raising. Some time before his marriage and while still living with his parents, he managed a virgin farm of eighty acres, which was part of a large tract his father had purchased in section 29 of Greensburg township. This farm required considerable preparation for the production of crops and kept him occupied during the winter months, but in the summer he would put in his time assisting his father. At the age of twenty-six, the subject found it necessary to give his entire time and attention to this eighty acres and at that time, 1908, the father decided to grant him a warranty deed of conveyance for this farm. During the years between 1900 and 1906, August G. Verhoff lived with his brother, Joseph, and sister, Mary, who kept house for

them. These young men had but a limited amount of capital and underwent a great many privations and hardships before they were able to get this land into the best condition for profitable production. However, with the true German industry and self-denial, and by the introduction of a drainage system, this farm, formerly not much better than a swamp, was made a well-paying proposition. In 1909 was begun the erection of necessary farm buildings, and in 1910, August G. erected his present commodious and comfortable home.

In 1907, with two of his brothers, Frank and Joseph, he bought seventy-six acres near Dornington, in Greensburg township, to which he devotes much attention.

On May 3, 1910, August G. Verhoff was married to Elnora Westbeld, daughter of William and Mary (Brockman) Westbeld, the father having been born in Glandorf and the mother in Ft. Jennings, Putnam county, Ohio. The paternal grandparents, Bernard and Caroline Westbeld, were born in Germany and came to this country in an early day, settling in Putnam county, Ohio. Caroline Westbeld survives her husband and is now living with her son, Joseph, in Blanchard township, Putnam county. Besides Joseph, there were other children born to this union, as follow: William, Frank, Theresa, Anna, Catherine and Philomena. The maternal grandparents, Joseph and Caroline (Landwehr) Brockman, resided on a farm near Ft. Jennings, Putnam county, Ohio, where Mrs. Brockman still lives, making her home with a son, Louis Brockman. Other children to this union are Joseph, Henry, Caroline, Mathilda, Elizabeth, Mary.

William Westbeld, after his marriage to Mary Brockman, moved to a farm in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, and later removed to an eighty-acre tract of land in Union township, near the town of Kalida, Ohio. To them were born seven children, Elnora, the wife of the subject, Cornelius, Lawrence, Regina, Oscar, Linus and Marcella. The daughter, Regina, having decided to make her life's work one devoted to charity, obedience and poverty, is now studying for the sisterhood in the order of the Sisters of Providence, at Newport, Kentucky. All are devout members of St. Michael's Catholic church in Kalida, Ohio.

Immediately after his marriage, August G. Verhoff occupied the residence which he had built on the original farm and to them were born two children, Oscar Theodore, on August 16, 1911, and Norbert William, May 23, 1913.

August G. Verhoff has improved the farm to such an extent that there are now seven large buildings on the place and everything is kept up in a

business-like way. Mr. Verhoff, in spite of his many farm duties, has found sufficient time to interest himself in public affairs for the good of the community, and, now is serving in a creditable manner in the office of township trustee, is president of the Mutual Live Stock Insurance Company of Kalida, Ohio, secretary of the local agricultural extension society and is treasurer of the Mutual Telephone Company of Kalida, Ohio. In addition to his general farming he has gained for himself an enviable reputation as a stock raiser, although not on a large scale. He is taking a great interest in building up his Shorthorn cattle, which is all registered stock, in which he is an undoubted success. In addition to cattle, he is devoting considerable time and attention to hogs, particularly the Poland China breeds.

Mr. Verhoff is an ardent supporter of the Democratic party, and is a regular member of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, Ohio. In all his relations of life, he has been found faithful to every trust confided in him and because of his genuine worth, courteous manners and genial disposition, he has won and retained the warm regard of all with whom he has associated, the latter including the best people of the county. Mr. Verhoff formerly attended St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf, where his father still belongs and where he has worshipped for many years.

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#### FRANK J. GIESKEN.

In every community, some men are well known for their upright lives, remarkable common sense, moral worth, rather than for their wealth or political standing. Their neighbors and acquaintances respect them—their example is heeded for the emulation of their fellows. They win their way to success by untiring energy and right principles, and hold the respect of their fellow men by their genuine worth. Among the young business men of Miller City, Ohio, who have won for themselves a commendable degree of success in business, is Frank J. Giesken, a well known hardware dealer of Miller City, Ohio.

Frank J. Giesken was born on January 30, 1889, in Monterey township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Joseph and Sarah (Swank) Giesken. Joseph Giesken was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, and was educated in the Greensburg township schools and at Glandorf. He was reared as a farmer and helped his father on the farm in Greensburg township. After his marriage, he located in Monterey township, Putnam county, where he owned a farm of one hundred and twenty acres. He farmed this

until his death, November 28, 1889. He was married to Sarah Swank, a native of Van Wert county, Ohio, who survived him and who lives on the old homestead farm of eighty acres, forty acres having been sold in Monterey township. To this union were born four children, Mrs. Clementina Leis, of Chesaning, Michigan; Charles, of Chesaning, Michigan; Mrs. Emma Schluter, who lives on the home farm in Monterey township, and Frank J., the subject of this sketch.

Frank J. Giesken was educated in the Monterey township public schools, especially at the special Brooks district No. 2 school in Monterey township. He worked on his father's farm until 1908 and, having learned the carpenter trade, followed this vocation for a period of three years, at Ottoville, Ohio, and in Monterey township. He helped to build the Sister's house in Ottoville and the school buildings at Ft. Jennings and Vaughnsville, Ohio. He also helped to place the clock in the Catholic church, at Ottoville. Mr. Giesken then clerked in different hardware stores in Glandorf, Ohio, at Chesaning and Hemlock, Michigan. He spent one year in these three places and then came to Miller City, Ohio, and purchased the hardware store owned by M. E. Beck. He is still engaged in this business and enjoys a lucrative trade in Miller City. He is popular and well known for his sound business principles. Mr. Giesken enjoys a high reputation in this community and is known to be up-to-date and progressive in all of his business methods. He has the agency for Yale motorcycles and Johnson farm machinery.

Frank J. Giesken was married on May 1, 1912, to Anna Vincke, the daughter of Ferdinand F. and Mary (Schlagbaum) Vincke. Ferdinand Vincke was born in Germany, came to America, and now conducts a general mercantile store at Ottoville, Ohio. His wife was born one mile east of Ottoville, Putnam county. To Frank J. and Anna (Vincke) Giesken, one daughter, Celesta Mary, has been born, May 5, 1913. The store of Frank J. Giesken is the centre of trading for the farmers in the immediate vicinity and for miles around Miller City. His up-to-date and thorough stock has earned for him the reputation of the leading hardware and implement merchant of this part of the county.

Frank J. Giesken is a member of the Miller City town council and is president of this body. In politics, he is a stanch Democrat. Frank J. Giesken and wife are members of the Catholic church, at Miller City. Mr. Giesken's father and mother were also members of the Catholic church. Joseph Giesken was an excellent farmer and a hard worker during his entire life. He followed general farming and was a man who was well liked by the people of his community. He was known to be a good provider, a kind father and a devoted husband.

## JOHN HENRY SCHIMMOLLER.

John Henry Schimmoller is a native of Putnam county, having been born in Jackson township. At one time Mr. Schimmoller owned a tract of two hundred and thirty-three acres of land, but distributed a hundred and forty acres among his children and now retains, of his original holdings, only ninety-three acres. Mr. Schimmoller is no longer engaged in active farming, but devotes his attention to supervising the ninety-three-acre farm in Jackson township. At one time Mr. Schimmoller was engaged in raising thoroughbred horses, but he gave up that business some time ago. For many years he was prominent in the political and civic life of Jackson township, and held many positions of trust and responsibility.

John Henry Schimmoller was born on June 3, 1840, in Jackson township. He is the son of Francis and Mary (Ritmeier) Schimmoller, the former of whom was born in Osnabruck, Province of Hanover, Germany, and who came to this country in 1833, about two years after the arrival of Father Horstman, who settled in Glandorf. Francis Schimmoller was married in Germany. His wife accompanied him to this country, as did also their one child, Christina. They settled on a farm near Glandorf, Putnam county, having purchased eighty acres from the government, and remained there for three years. During this period, Mrs. Schimmoller died and Mr. Schimmoller later married Mary Ritmeier. He then sold his farm and moved to section 14, of Jackson township, and lived on a farm of fifty-five acres. He cleared and improved all but ten acres of this farm, and here erected buildings. Later he acquired more land, and altogether owned three hundred and sixty acres. By his second marriage there were six children, Frank; John H.; Elizabeth, deceased; William; Louis, deceased, and August, deceased. Francis and Mary (Ritmeier) Schimmoller attended St. Joseph's Catholic church at Ft. Jennings. He was a trustee for a number of years, and died in 1855. His wife died ten years previously, in 1845. Francis Schimmoller was a substantial and prosperous farmer and well respected in this community.

His son, John Henry, was educated in Jackson township. During his early youth, he worked on his father's farm. At the death of the father, John Henry worked for six and one-half years for Barney Leopold in the pork-packing business. He inherited sixty-six acres in Jackson township from his father, and then moved here, and erected an addition to the dwelling in which he now lives. It was the original log house and is now covered with siding. With the improvements that have been made, it now makes a substantial and modern house.

Two years after moving to the farm, on September 11, 1861, Mr. Schimmoller was married to Bernadina Maag, who was born in Glandorf, Putnam county, and who is the daughter of Theodore and Catherine (Doepker) Maag. To this union were born eleven children, Amelia, on October 7, 1862, married Joseph Dickman and she lives in Jackson township and has five children living and one has died; Frank Theodore, October 2, 1864, married Philomena Pool, who died, and he later married Anna (Tenwalde) Bentley, to whom five children were born by the first marriage and one child by the second marriage, they live in Jackson township; William Henry, February 21, 1866, married Catherine Ostendorf, and they live in Ft. Jennings township and have three children living and two dead; Maria Christina, April 30, 1868, died on October 5, 1892; Anna Wilhelmina, April 26, 1870, married Ben Heidecker, and they live in Hazelwood, Ohio, and have three children, one of whom died; Anna Maria Agnes, May 1, 1872, died on January 1, 1889; Josephine Mathilda, July 8, 1874, married Ben Sherman, and they live at Ft. Jennings and have three children; Louis Edward, October 29, 1876, died on July 29, 1878; George Joseph, November 30, 1879, married Callie Fecker, and they live in Jackson township and have two children; William Arnold died on January 8, 1889, and Albert Edwards, twins, November 19, 1882. Albert Edward married Wilhelmina Becker and lives in Jackson township on the old home place and has two children. Wilhelmina (Becker) Schimmoller, wife of Albert Edward, was born in Jackson township, daughter of Joseph and Theresa (Streutker) Becker, who lived in Jackson township for many years. Joseph Becker still lives there. His wife died in 1893. They had six children, four of whom are still living, August, Wilhelmina, Anna and John. On October 10, 1906, Albert Edward Schimmoller and Wilhelmina Becker were married, after which they immediately came to the farm of John Schimmoller and have ever since made this their home. The two children born to them are Edmund, September 27, 1907 and Cleo, October 25, 1912.

Mrs. John Henry Schimmoller died on April 18, 1904, and is buried at Ft. Jennings. She was a loyal and devoted wife and mother, and contributed largely to her husband's success. Her parents, Theodore and Catherine (Doepker) Maag, were born in Germany and married in Cincinnati, Ohio, and settled on a farm near Glandorf, Putnam county. Of their children, seven are deceased. The living are Wilhelmina, Joseph and Edward. The deceased children are William, Bernadina, Frank, Bernard, Mary, Agnes and Josephine. Theodore and Catherine (Doepker) Maag were members of the St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf. They are deceased and their remains are buried in the cemetery at Glandorf.

Mr. Schimmoller and his family are all members of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Ft. Jennings. Mrs. Schimmoller was a devoted member of this church. Mr. Schimmoller is a Democrat. He served as township trustee for twenty-one years, has served as township supervisor for eighteen years, and at Ft. Jennings was a collector for the German Mutual Fire Insurance Company, of which he is also a director. Mr. Schimmoller's daughters, Millie and Wilhelmina, have both taught school. The former taught for three years. Wilhelmina was a student at one time at Crawfis College. The Schimmoller family is well known in this community, and they are all highly respected.

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#### WILLIAM HENRY ROWER.

William Henry Rower, the proprietor of an excellent farm of one hundred and five acres, in Jackson township, Putnam county, Ohio, and a farm which is under a splendid state of cultivation, is descended from a long line of illustrious forbears who have had a large part in the military and political history of two continents. William Henry Rower himself was born on the homestead farm of his parents, June 15, 1858. He is the son of William and Eliza Ann (Pearcy) Rower.

The paternal grandparents of Mr. Rower were Christian Frederick Benjamin and Elizabeth (Long) Rower. Christian F. B. Rower was born in Dresden, Saxony, March 19, 1779. He served in the army of Saxony in the Napoleonic Wars and was a valiant soldier. He left the army and came to America, arriving on November 30, 1802. He first settled near Pottsville, Pennsylvania, where he was a distiller, having taken up the same business in this country which he had followed in his native land. He was married to Elizabeth Long on November 12, 1807. She was a native of Pennsylvania, having been born on February 11, 1790. Her parents were of Dutch descent, and she was the daughter of Joseph Long and wife. Elizabeth Long was educated in the common schools of Pennsylvania, she was a devoted member of the Baptist church, as was her husband also, both of whom took an active part in the affairs of this church.

Near the close of the War of 1812, Christian F. B. Rower and wife crossed the mountains of Pennsylvania in a large covered wagon and settled in Franklin county, Ohio, where they were among the earliest pioneers. He purchased a small tract of land and farmed until his death, September 20, 1826. His wife survived him twenty years, dying on June 10, 1846.

Christian F. B. Rower and wife were the parents of ten children, Ro-

sanna, born on October 6, 1808, and died on March 27, 1887; Sarah, who died November 30, 1893, was the wife of John Coble, of Franklin county; Julia A., December 5, 1812, and died in 1849, who was the wife of Ellis Long, of Franklin county, Ohio; Charlotte, December 5, 1815, and died in February, 1881; Susanne, October 4, 1817, and died on March 7, 1892, was the wife of Emanuel Conkle; Mahala, August 10, 1819, and died in 1837; John, June 15, 1821, and died on June 28, 1853; William, the father of William Henry; and James N., February 9, 1826, and died about 1910.

William Rower, the father of William Henry, was born in Franklin county, Ohio, on August 5, 1823, and was educated in the log school in the neighborhood where he was born. He worked on the farm of his father and, when old enough, received three dollars a month for his services. He was married on September 7, 1848, to Eliza A. Percy, who was born on May 8, 1830, and who was the daughter of James and Sarah (Cable) Percy. Mrs. Eliza Rower's father, James Percy, was born in Ohio in 1795. He was a farmer and carpenter. His wife died on December 8, 1891. She was a devout member of the United Brethren church for the greater part of her life.

William Rower lived one year in Franklin county, Ohio, but after his marriage moved, in September, 1849, to Jackson township, Putnam county. The journey was made in a covered wagon. They settled on a tract of wild woodland which William Rower had previously purchased. It was located in the valley of the Auglaize river. William Rower and wife undertook to live in a tent until they were able to clear enough space to build a log cabin. The season was a rainy one and the tent was not waterproof against the hard-beating rain. Consequently, they were forced to abandon the tent and live with a neighbor until they were able to build their own home. Besides building this home, William Rower assisted his brother in erecting a house. William Rower cleared his farm, especially the land around his house and stable and farmed all of his life.

William and Eliza A. (Percy) Rower had twelve children: Samantha J., who married George Reynolds, a farmer of Jennings township, Putnam county; James M., who died in infancy; Sarah E., the wife of Richard Reynolds, a farmer in Jennings township, Putnam county; Susan Ellen, the wife of Benjamin Blakely, of Kalida, Ohio; John Tallman, who married Katherine Seifert and lives in Findlay, Ohio; William Henry, the subject of this sketch; Lewis Albert, who was first married to Ella Pangle and after her death, to Gertrude McKay, who also died; Elvin, who married Theresa Miehl and lives in Toledo, Ohio; Vollandigham, a farmer in Sugar Creek



township, Putnam county; Amanda A., the deceased wife of J. R. Langston; Nancy C., who died in infancy; Gurchie M., who married William Dunivan and lives in Kalida.

William Rower worked hard on the farm and improved it. He retired to Kalida in 1889 and was no longer engaged in farming. He and his wife died on the same day in Kalida, December 19, 1911.

William Rower was a Democrat in politics and was an influential man throughout his life. He was a justice of the peace for many years and served as township trustee for fourteen years. He always enjoyed the confidence and esteem of his neighbors and was foremost in promoting anything which had to do with the welfare of the neighborhood where he lived. He and his wife were faithful members of the United Brethren church. They were among the early pioneers of the county and passed through many privations and hardships.

William Henry Rower was born on the home place. Under his father's guidance, he learned to be an excellent farmer. He also received a good classical education in the township schools of Jackson township. William Henry Rower was married on April 15, 1885, to Clara Miehl, who was born in February, 1861, in Carroll county, Ohio. She was the daughter of George and Mary (Hegner) Miehl.

George Miehl was born on October 24, 1818, in Bavaria, Germany. He was a weaver by occupation, and came to America in 1844, and located first at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he was a collier for fourteen years. He was married to Mary A. Hegner on February 14, 1847. She was a native of Wurttemberg, Germany, born February 27, 1823. She came to America with her parents at the age of four years. Her parents were George Herman and Regina Hegner.

George and Mary Miehl were the parents of eleven children, George; Joseph and Catherine, twins, the latter the wife of Clements Pund; Mary, the wife of I. N. Kahle; Barbara, the wife of William Kohlhoff; Regina; Clara, the wife of Mr. Rower; Benjamin A.; Frank; Theresa, the wife of Elvin Rower, and John Albert. George Miehl lived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, until 1858, and then moved to Carroll county, where he lived on a farm. He followed farming until 1866, and then removed to Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio. In this township he purchased a farm of one hundred acres, only twenty acres of which were cleared. He improved this farm and, in 1872, sold it and bought a tract of land in Jackson township, Putnam county. Only a small part of this farm was improved and only a very small clearing had been made before he bought it.

He farmed here until his death, October 3, 1876. George Miehl served six years in the German army before coming to America. He was a devout and faithful member of St. Mary's Catholic church at Ottoville. He was a Democrat and had served as township trustee. He died with the honors of an influential and upright citizen. His wife survived him and in April, 1893, she was married to Peter Wannemacher, of Ottoville. He was an ex-sheriff of Putnam county. She died on October 17, 1911, a lovable and highly-respected woman.

On March 6, 1889, William Henry Rower purchased the old home place, where he was born. He moved to the farm, coming from Vaughns-ville, Ohio, where he had spent four years after his marriage. Mr. Rower has one hundred and five acres of excellent land, as heretofore stated. He has erected a barn and several outbuildings, drained the land and made many other improvements upon this farm. He keeps thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle and Duroc-Jersey hogs.

William H. and Clara (Miehl) Rower have had three children, Mary Zora, born January 23, 1886; Zella Theresa, April 18, 1888, and George Harold, September 19, 1900. Mary Zora married George Rambo and lives at Toledo, Ohio, where he is receiving clerk in a mercantile establishment. They have one son, Claude William, born on May 22, 1914. The other two children are at home.

William Henry Rower is a Democrat in politics, but has held no offices. The Rower family are members of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida. Mr. Rower is a member of St. Joseph's Benevolent Society and also the Holy Name Society. Mrs. Rower is a member of the Mother's Society.

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#### OTTO RISSER.

The following is the brief sketch of the life of one who, by close attention to business, has achieved marked success in the agricultural world and gained a prominent position among the enterprising men of the county, with which such interests are identified. It is a plain record, rendered remarkable by no strange or mysterious adventures, no wonderful or lucky accidents and no tragic situations. Mr. Risser is one of those estimable characters whose integrity and strong personality must force them into an admirable society which their modesty never seeks and who command the respect of their contemporaries and leave the impress of their individuality upon the community in which they live.

Otto Risser was born in Sugar Creek township, December 20, 1867, the son of Daniel and Elizabeth M. (Smith) Risser. Daniel Risser was a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, born on January 1, 1836, the son of Abraham and Catherine (Smitzerick) Risser. He, with his brothers, Abraham, Jacob, Henry, David and Christian, came to America in 1857, settling first in Cleveland, Ohio, where he engaged in the operation of a bus and transfer line. At the outbreak of the Civil War, David and Christian Risser proved their loyalty to their adopted country by enlisting in the Union army, and serving throughout that great struggle, with great credit to themselves. Some time after locating in Cleveland, Daniel Risser went to Vera Cruz, Mexico, as an employe of a Cleveland concern, engaged in the operation of a bus line from Vera Cruz across the isthmus of Tehauntepec. The venture not proving successful, six months later Mr. Risser returned to Cleveland, where he remained until 1859, when he and his brother, Henry, came to Putnam county, locating in Sugar Creek township, where they purchased land. Daniel Risser bought eighty acres, located one and one-half miles southeast of Vaughnsville, which became the family homestead, having prior to this been located a short time on forty acres near Columbus Grove. At that time the only improvements on the place were a log cabin and stable and but a small portion of the land had been cleared. He devoted himself to improving the the farm, erecting substantial buildings and tiling and ditching the land so that, in due time, it became one of the best improved and most productive farms in that section of the county. He was very industrious and intelligent in the direction of his affairs and became well-to-do and, finally, found himself the possessor of seven hundred acres of land. In addition to the carrying on of general farming operations, he gave considerable attention to the breeding and raising of live stock. He died at the home of his son, Daniel H. Risser, at Vaughnsville, on September 15, 1902, at the age of sixty-six years, and his widow died there on November 2, 1911, at the ripe old age of seventy-seven years. She had been a consistent and faithful member of the Christian church for many years. Daniel Risser was a Democrat, and in his religious belief, was affiliated with the German Lutheran church.

Daniel Risser was married to Elizabeth M. Smith on August 14, 1862, who was born in Ashland county, Ohio, on April 18, 1836, the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Risser) Smith. Her parents came to Ohio, in 1865, buying a farm adjoining the one owned by Mr. Risser. There were five children in the Smith family, Mary, Elizabeth, Charlotte, Catherine and Jacob, all being deceased, excepting the two last named. To Daniel and

Elizabeth Risser were born six children, Julius C., born on February 25, 1864; Daniel R., born on August 27, 1865, whose sketch is contained elsewhere in this volume; Otto, the subject of this sketch; John J., born on July 21, 1870; Emma L., born on February 28, 1873; and Elizabeth A., born on October 28, 1876. All of these children are living with the exception of Emma, who died on March 5, 1893, shortly after her marriage.

Otto Risser spent his childhood and youth on the paternal estate and received his education in the old Michael district school. He continued to help his father on the home farm until he was thirty years of age, when he was married. He then moved to the Michael farm, which was owned by his father, and here he lived for about four years. He returned to the home place, taking charge of it for two years, and the following fall, after moving back to the home farm, the subject's father died on September 15, 1902. About a year and a half later Mr. Risser moved back to the Michael farm and has continued to operate this place since that time. The farm consists of one hundred and ninety-eight acres of as good land as there is in Putnam county and here Mr. Risser has successfully followed general farming pursuits, but also giving considerable attention to live stock, being a breeder of Polled-Durham cattle and a feeder of cattle for the market. In all of his operations he has been actuated by the desire to raise the standard of agriculture in his locality and has been largely instrumental in proving the worth of advanced methods in his vocation.

Otto Risser was united in marriage on December 23, 1897, to Ada Miller, who was born in Sugar Creek township on March 4, 1870, the daughter of Jacob W. and Catherine (Best) Miller. Both of her parents are natives of eastern Ohio, the former born in Pickaway county and the latter in Clark county. Mrs. Risser was one of ten children, four sons and six daughters, William, deceased; George, Elizabeth, deceased; James, Jane, Ada, John, Maggie, deceased; Mary and Allie. To Mr. and Mrs. Risser have been born four children, Wilbur, born on July 12, 1900; Raymond, born on December 30, 1903; Marguerite, born on October 8, 1906; and Leonard, born on April 10, 1912. All of these children are living with the exception of Marguerite, who died on July 7, 1907.

In his political views, Mr. Risser is allied with the Democratic party and takes such an interest as every good citizen should in the public affairs of his county, state and nation. His religious membership, as well as that of his wife, is with the Christian church, to which he gives a liberal support. In every phase of life's activities, material, moral or social, which affect the

welfare of the community, Mr. Risser stands for only that which is best and, because of his upright life and splendid character, he has won the hearty commendation of all who know him.

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REV. FATHER M. MUEHE.

Despite the persistence with which our captains of industry undertake to maintain that wealth is based on service and that earnings and profit are proportionate to service, we all know this contention is based upon an idle fallacy. Ministers of the Gospel, those stately men who bear the cross of Christianity to all parts of the world, the spiritual counselors of the church, receive little compensation compared to the sacrifice they endure and the service they perform. Theirs, however, is the larger compensation for the greater service, the compensation which cannot be measured by material standards. Among the clergy, who for many years have ministered to the spiritual needs of the congregation of St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida, is the Rev. Father M. Muehe, who is the best-known and the most dearly-beloved man in this community.

Born on July 5, 1865, in a little village in Bavaria, Germany, Father Muehe, at an early age, was sent to the Royal Gymnasium at Dellingen, where for several years he was a student in the classical course given by that institution. Father Muehe's father was a railway official in Germany.

Father Muehe emigrated to the United States in 1883 and after a course of instruction in the novitiate, and later in the theological seminary of the Fathers of the Most Precious Blood at Carthagen, Ohio, he was ordained to the holy priesthood by the Most Reverend Henry Elder, D. D., Archbishop of Cincinnati. On St. Patrick's day, in 1889, he received his pastorate at St. Mary's church, Ft. Recovery, Ohio, from which place Father Muehe was transferred to Germantown, Missouri, where he was stationed for seven years. At Germantown he was instrumental in the organization and establishment of a parochial school, which remains to today as a tribute to his energy, his initiative and his consecration to the holy work to which his life has been dedicated. Coming from Germantown, Missouri, to Ohio, he was pastor, for some time, of the two parishes of McCartyville and St. Patrick's in Shelby county. During the past twelve years, he has been officiating as pastor of St. Michael's parish at Kalida. Here he also has been instrumental in founding a parochial school, the corner-stone of the present beauti-

ful building having been laid on December 8, 1905. The school is now in charge of and taught by four Sisters of Providence, and has an enrollment of one hundred and seventy pupils. The parish of St. Michael's is in a flourishing condition, and this is largely due to the untiring effort of Father Muehe, a kindly man of tender and sympathetic impulses, born to the loving work to which he is engaged. Under his care, St. Michael's parish promises to become one of the leading and most prosperous congregations in Putnam county.

Aside from the noble spirit in which his pastoral duties are performed, Father Muehe is an able preacher and eloquent speaker, and a man to whom his people naturally turn for counsel and guidance in all spiritual matters.

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#### EDWARD KERNER.

Among the ambitious young farmers of Union township, Putnam county, few are better known or more popular than Edward Kerner, a member of one of the oldest and most influential families of that part of the county, and it gives the biographer pleasure to present on this page a brief outline of the salient points of his life. On another page of this work the genealogy of the Kerner family is set out at some length in the biography relating to Mr. Kerner's father, Joseph Kerner, of Greensburg township, this county, and that detail will be omitted from this sketch as being an unnecessary repetition. For the purpose of this immediate biography, it is sufficient to say that Edward Kerner was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, on November 3, 1889, the son of Joseph and Mary (Schaefer) Kerner, prominent residents of that neighborhood.

Edward Kerner was reared on the paternal farm and received his education in the schools of Greensburg township, remaining there until his marriage in 1912, at which time he moved to an eighty-acre farm in Union township, which was set over to him by his father, the same having been a part of the latter's extensive land holdings in this county. Young Mr. Kerner is alert and active, fully alive to the improved methods of farming and the energy which he has displayed in establishing his home, presages excellent things for him in the future, industry being sure to secure its own reward.

On September 11, 1912, Edward Kerner was united in marriage to Anna Rieman, the daughter of Ignatius and Mary (Marmon) Rieman, both of whom are natives of Putnam county and who for many years lived on

the farm in Ottawa township in which Mrs. Kerner was born, this farm having been originally entered from the government by Mr. Rieman's grandfather at a very early day in the settlement of that portion of the county. Ignatius Rieman died on September 1, 1904. He was one of six children of his parents, the others being Frank, John, Henry, Anna and Bernadina. Mrs. Kerner's maternal grandparents, John and Gertrude (Verhoff) Marmon, are still living at an advanced age on the farm in Greensburg township, which for many years has been their home. To them were born nine children, Frank, John, William, Christian, Charles, Joseph, Anna, Theresa and Catherine.

To Ignatius and Mary (Marmon) Reiman were born nine children, Mary, August, Clara, John, Anna, Caroline, Louis, Theresa and Laurence. August married Anna Roof and lives in the town of Leipsic, this county, and Mary, who married Benjamin Duling, is deceased, as is also Clara.

To Edward and Anna (Rieman) Kerner there has been born one child, a daughter, Marcella Mary, on October 3, 1914, a charming little one, who is the delight of the lives of the devoted young parents.

Edward Kerner and wife are getting a good start in life and are very popular in their neighborhood. Mr. Kerner is a good farmer, having an excellent grasp on the essential requirements of his arduous and exacting vocation and his success seems assured. His wife is a natural home-maker and as a consequence they have a delightful home, one of the pleasantest in the neighborhood, where their friends always are sure of open-handed hospitality and a warm welcome.

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### JOHN G. KAPPAUF.

There is, perhaps, no record in this volume which more clearly demonstrates the force of industry and honesty in the affairs of life than does the life history of John G. Kappauf, a well-known farmer of Palmer township. Almost every civilized country on the face of the globe has sent representatives to the state of Ohio, but there is no more important or valued element in our citizenship than that which has come from Germany. John G. Kappauf is the son of a well-known German farmer, of Putnam county, who came to this country and became a successful man. Although he is now past eighty-nine years of age, he is still active.

John G. Kappauf was born on November 2, 1875, in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of John, Sr., and Dora (Faber) Kappauf. John Kappauf, Sr., was born at Gross-Breidenbach, Germany,

and was educated in his native land. He came overland from New York city to Pennsylvania, and from Pennsylvania to Leipsic, Ohio. He was twenty-six years of age when he came to this country. He was a teamster in his native land and his parents were farmers. He was reared on a farm. He spent a few years in Leipsic and then moved to the Sam Miller farm in Liberty township, Putnam county, where he farmed. He rented this farm for some time and, on March 27, 1870, moved to a farm of eighty acres in Palmer township, which he purchased. By hard work and diligent efforts on the part of himself and wife, they put the farm in good condition and later added forty acres to the original eighty. They erected all the buildings, including a residence and barn, and followed general farming. John Kappauf, Sr., retired from active farming about 1890, but he still retained his residence and turned his farm over to his son and daughter, who now operate it. John Kappauf, Sr., was drafted during the Civil War, but on account of a stiff finger on his right hand, he was rejected. He was born on January 6, 1826, and is now eighty-nine years of age. His wife was born in Wittenburg, Germany, and came with her parents to America. She died on February 22, 1914, at the age of seventy-six years. She was a devout member of the German Lutheran church. Her husband is also a member of this church. He is a Democrat, but never held office. He is not a member of any lodge. John Kappauf, Sr., and wife were the parents of six children, Mrs. William McDonald, of Liberty township; Joseph, of LaSalle, New York; Katherine, deceased; Dora, John and Anna, all at home.

Dora Kappauf was educated in the common schools of Palmer township, Putnam county. She keeps house on the old home place and has never married, preferring to assist in the care of her father and the farm, which place has been divided between her and John, each holding half interest. John G. Kappauf is an able farmer. They are members of the Germany Lutheran church at Elm Center, in Liberty township.

John G. Kappauf and his sister follow general farming. The family have a high reputation in their community for intelligence, industry and genial manners, are careful farmers and have a fine farm which is always kept in good condition. Their father was one of the pioneers of Putnam county and also of Palmer township. During his day and generation, there have been many changes made in this section of the state and the Kappauf family has had a large part in these changes and in these improvements. John G. Kappauf has never married. He is a Democrat in politics, but has never held office, preferring to devote his entire time to the cultivation of his farm and his personal business interests.



## JOHN FISCHBACK.

John Fischback, a successful farmer of Jackson township, Putnam county, Ohio, is a son of native-born German parents, who had much to do with the pioneer history of Jackson township. John Fischback's parents, Thomas and Mary (Neis) Fischback, came to America about 1859. At the time they settled on a tract of forty acres in section 20 of this township, the land, was a complete wilderness, and Thomas Fischback cut away enough timber to obtain room to erect a log house and barn. He partially cleared the place and farmed here until his death in 1865. Thomas and Mary (Neis) Fischback suffered all the privations of pioneer life. He was always a hard worker, and by dint of untiring industry and patient perseverance brought his farm to a high state of cultivation. Thomas Fischback and wife were both born in Luxemburg, Germany, while Mrs. Fischback's parents were also native born Germans, and both died in their native land. Thomas Fischback's mother died in this country about 1876. She had come to the United States alone after the death of her husband and lived among her children for several years. At the time of her death, John Fischback was about sixteen years of age and John had three uncles and two aunts, brothers and sisters of his father, he, himself, being one of four children, the others being Louis, William, Mrs. Catherine Lauf, of Jennings township, Putnam county, Ohio.

John Fischback was born on October 20, 1860, in Jackson township, on the original homestead farm which his father had settled when he first came to this country. This farm is across the road from where he now lives. He grew up on the home farm and was educated in the public schools of his home township, and assisted his father on the farm until his marriage, June 7, 1890. Mr. Fischback's wife, before her marriage, was Mary Nichols, a native of Germany, the daughter of Jacob and Helen (Neis) Nichols.

Mrs. Fischback's parents were both natives of Germany and lived and died in their native land. Mrs. Fischback herself came to America with several other families who settled in Jackson township, Putnam county, Ohio. She remained here until her marriage, and, in fact, this has been her home ever since coming to America. Mrs. Fischback was one of a family of nine children, two sons and seven daughters, John Peter, John, Anna, Katherine, Theresa, Mary, Anna, Katherine, Susan and Mary Ann.

John Fischback remained on the home farm of forty acres, which his father had owned after his marriage, and operated this land until he was able to purchase sixty acres just across the road in the same section as the original forty. Mr. Fischback and his family moved to this farm in the

fall of 1909. In the meantime Mr. Fischback has erected several buildings upon the farm, has remodeled the residence, put up many rods of fencing, ditched and tiled the land, and in many ways improved the appearance of the farm, as well as enhanced the value of the land. Mr. Fischback now owns the original homestead farm of forty acres in addition to the sixty acres which he later purchased.

John and Mary (Nichols) Fischback are the parents of six children. Two sons, Joseph and Henry, died in infancy. The living children are: Katherine, Peter, Henry and Alphonse.

John Fischback is a genteel German farmer, and is possessed of the predominant national trait of the German people. He is naturally thrifty and prosperous, and keeps his farm and belongings in a well-regulated and progressive manner. Mr. Fischback keeps a high grade of live stock, and to the stranger, his farm bears evidence of the skill of its owner and his native interest in his life's vocation.

The family are all devout members of St. Mary's Catholic church at Ottoville. Mr. Fischback is identified with the Democratic party, but has never been a candidate for office, and in fact, has never cared to hold office. Nevertheless, he is well respected in the community where he lives, as is also his entire family.

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### THEODORE NOIROT.

Putnam county, Ohio, has reason to take pride in the personnel of her farmers and business men, one of whom, Theodore Noirot, is well known throughout the county, not only as a successful farmer, but as the field manager for the Continental Sugar Beet Company. There is a rather full measure of satisfaction in presenting even a brief resume of Mr. Noirot's life and achievements. Some time ago, however, Mr. Noirot rented out his farm in Palmer township and has lived more or less retired since, in Miller City, Ohio.

Theodore Noirot was born on July 5, 1875, in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Celestian and Victoria Noirot. Celestian Noirot was born in the village of Boncourt, France, August 10, 1835, and came to America with his parents, Francis and Francois (Raclot) Noirot, who were also natives of the village of Boncourt, France and who settled in Hancock county, Ohio, on a farm. They were here for a time, and later moved to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1862. They settled on forty acres of land, in Palmer township, at a time when the land was heavily timbered and

in a swampy condition. Celestian Noirot was reared a farmer and came with his parents to Putnam county, Ohio, and farmed in a general way all of his life. He also learned the plasterer's trade in Hancock county and followed this, along with farming. Later, he followed this trade in Putnam county and worked on many buildings. His forty acres in Palmer township was increased to more than two hundred acres. Celestian Noirot worked at his trade at Findlay, Ohio, during which time he walked from his farm, in Palmer township, to Findlay and back again. Celestian Noirot was married in Findlay, Ohio, but later moved to Putnam county. He and his wife had eight children, Joseph, Celestian and Victoria, all deceased; Mrs. Helen Kerns; of Miller City; Celestian, Jr., who lives in Palmer township; George, who lives in Canada; Mrs. Emma Royal, who lives in Dekalb county, Indiana, and Theodore, the subject of this sketch. Celestian Noirot has held no offices except that of township supervisor and school director. He is not a member of any lodge. In politics, he is a Democrat. He is a member of St. Nicholas's Catholic church at Miller City, and is still living with his son, Celestian, Jr. He has retired from active farming. He is a man of good reputation and has done much for his children. He has been a hard worker, gone through many sorrows, and has also been blessed with much happiness. Celestian Noirot is now past eighty years of age. His wife, who was born in Alsace, France, came to America with her mother who became sick on board the vessel and died five days after landing in this country. Mrs. Celestian Noirot came to Findlay, Ohio, with her brother, George, and others. She stayed in Findlay for some time and, after her marriage, moved to Putnam county, Ohio, with her husband. She was born on August 15, 1841, and died on August 17, 1907, at the age of seventy-four years and one day. She was a good woman and an excellent mother. She was a devout member of St. Nicholas's Catholic church, at Miller City.

Theodore Noirot grew up on the home place and was educated in the township district schools of Palmer township. He was reared a farmer and has been active since early youth. He is an excellent farmer and, after leaving home, he purchased eighty acres of good land in section 15, of Palmer township, and farmed this until recently, when he rented it and moved to Miller City at which time Mr. Noirot retired from active farming. He erected all of the buildings on his farm and otherwise improved it. On January 1, 1915, Mr. Noirot accepted a position as field manager of the continental Sugar Beet Company, of Findlay, Ohio. He is now active in this work.

Theodore Noirot was the father of seven children, Joseph, born on Janu-

ary 25, 1896; Harvey, August 15, 1898; Albert, October, 1899; Ethel, April 12, 1901; Russell, October 13, 1902; Chester, April 5, 1904; and Viola, January 26, 1906. All of these children are living with their father at his residence in Miller City.

Theodore Noirot was constable of Palmer township and Miller City for five years and gave efficient service. He is well liked, is a congenial man and a good "mixer." He is not a member of any lodge but is a Democrat in politics and active in the councils of his party. He is a member of the St. Nicholas's Catholic church at Miller City.

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### JOHN SEIMET.

One of the best known farmers, business men and stock breeders, of the present generation in Putnam county, Ohio, is John Seimet, of Palmer township. Mr. Seimet is a man of strong and active sympathy, his temperament warm and ardent, his feelings deep and intense. These qualities have attracted to him an unusual number of devoted friends upon whom, under all circumstances, he can rely. He is a close student of human nature and has comprehended with little effort, the purposes and motives of men. He is a lover of truth and sincerity. John Seimet is a manly man and influential in the circles in which he has moved. Of sound character and unflagging industry, he stands as a conspicuous example of symmetrically-developed American manhood. His position, as one of the community's representative citizens, is universally conceded.

John Seimet was born on March 31, 1862, on a farm near Delphos, Ohio. He is the son of Nicholas and Elizabeth (Moreo) Seimet. Nicholas Seimet was born in the duchy of Luxemburg, Germany, and his wife, Elizabeth, was born in Byre, Germany. Nicholas Seimet came to America, at the age of eighteen years, alone. He learned the tailor's trade in Germany and was educated there. He had relatives near Delphos, Ohio, and came to the home of his brother-in-law, Adam Sharke. He engaged in farming upon his arrival in Putnam county and spent two seasons in Illinois farming and was married on January 24, 1861, to Elizabeth Moreo. After his marriage, he moved to a farm near Delphos, Ohio, where he farmed for two years. He then took a position as a boatman on the canal where he worked for some time. Later, he moved to Henry county, Ohio, and farmed forty acres. He sold this farm and bought eighty acres in Henry county. Later, he sold this

farm, about 1903, and moved to Leipsic, Ohio, where he had bought a house and lot. He spent two years in Leipsic but, his wife, preferring the farm, he again moved to a farm of one hundred and sixteen acres, in Van Buren township, which he had previously purchased. He lived here until 1912, when he again sold the farm and moved to Leipsic, where he now lives retired.

His wife, Elizabeth Moreo, came to America, with her parents, at the age of four years. They settled at New Riegel, Seneca county, Ohio. She was educated here where she lived until her marriage to Nicholas Seimet. Nicholas and Elizabeth Seimet were members of medium-sized families. Nicholas was one of three children: John, born in Germany, who died near Delphos, Ohio; Mrs. John Sharke, in Germany, came to America before her brother, Nicholas; and Nicholas, the subject of this sketch. Elizabeth Moreo was one of six children, the others being Lawrence, Andrew, Anna, Barbara and Julia.

To Nicholas and Elizabeth Seimet seven children were born, John, Andrew, Mary, Helena, Lawrence, Joseph, George and William. Joseph and George are deceased. Nicholas and Elizabeth Seimet are members of the St. Mary's Catholic church at Leipsic, Ohio. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on January 24, 1911, which was attended by thirty-six children and grandchildren.

John Seimet was educated at Adrian, Ohio, and during his early life was employed as an engineer. He was married on September 12, 1885, to Josephine Gustwiler, who died on December 16, 1887. After her death, John Seimet married Mary Ellerbrock, a daughter of Theodore and Anna Johannah Ellerbrock. Theodore Ellerbrock was born in Germany and when but eight years of age, came to this country with his parents, who settled on a farm near Glandorf, which they later sold. They then moved to a farm in Liberty township, where the parents spent the remainder of their lives. Theodore Ellerbrock was one of the following children of his parents: Theodore, Barney, William, Ferdinand, Elizabeth and Catherine. Theodore Ellerbrock grew to manhood in Putnam county and on August 20, 1856, was married to Anna Johannah Recker, who was born in Glandorf, Putnam county.

Anna Johannah Recker was one of a family of eight children of her parents, the others being Henry, Mary, Clara, Elizabeth, Catherine, Theresa and Anna.

After their marriage, Theodore and Anna J. (Recker) Ellerbrock continued to live in Putnam county. To them were born seven children, Mary,

wife of John Seimet; Barney; William; Ferdinand; Henry; Theodore and Katherine. Theodore Ellerbrock and wife celebrated their golden jubilee on August 20, 1907, which was attended by forty children and grandchildren. Theodore Ellerbrock and wife are now both deceased. During their lifetime they were held in the highest esteem by all who knew them.

After his marriage Mr. Seimet moved to a farm in Henry county, Ohio, where he lived for one year. Selling out here, they moved to Wood county, Ohio, where he worked in the oil fields, also engaging in farming. They spent two years here and then came to Putnam county, Ohio, where he purchased forty acres, in section 15 in Palmer township. He cleared and drained this land and made many other improvements. Later, Mr. Seimet bought twenty acres in section 15 and later traded the entire sixty acres for forty-seven acres where he now lives. On March 1, 1912, he bought an additional twenty acres in section 22, about three miles northwest of his present farm. He erected a house and barn and farmed this forty-seven acres for four years and then rented the farm. He is now engaged in the horse business. He started in a modest way about ten years ago, at that time having been a member of a company which owned a splendid Percheron horse. He later bought a Belgian horse and engaged in the business for himself. At this time, he owns both Belgian and Percheron thoroughbred horses and has an enviable reputation in the breeding business throughout this community.

John and Mary (Ellerbrock) Seimet have had two children, Lavinia Johannah, born on June 14, 1894, and Irene Elizabeth, on May 11, 1897. Lavinia Johannah married William Doepker and has one child, Karl Franklin, born on April 11, 1914. Irene Elizabeth is at home. She belongs to the St. Agnes Altar Society. Both daughters were educated in the Palmer township schools, both having graduated from the Mill City high school. The elder daughter taught school one year.

Mr. Seimet was a well contractor before his first marriage, he having engaged in the erection of wind pumps for some time. He is an expert at this business. Mr. Seimet is not a member of any lodge. He is a Democrat, is chairman of the Democratic party at Miller City, was a member of the school board for a number of years and, in fact, is still active. He also served as constable for seven years. John Seimet and family are members of St. Nicholas's Catholic church at Miller City. Mrs. Seimet is a member of the Mothers' Society of the church. John Seimet is a genial, unassuming man of good habits, well known and well liked. He is a prosperous and good farmer, a good judge of stock, especially of horses. Mr. Seimet is now treasurer of the Mutual Telephone Company of Miller City.

## ARTHUR L. POLLARD, D. V. S.

Among the worthy citizens of Continental, Putnam county, Ohio, who have impressed their personality upon this town and county, is Arthur L. Pollard, D. V. S., for many years a successful school teacher in Ohio, but since 1914, a practicing veterinarian in Continental. Doctor Pollard is a man of upright principles and interested in the advancement of the community where he has established himself, and where he has already built up a large and lucrative practice in his profession. After spending many years as a teacher in the schools of Ohio, Doctor Pollard acquired a splendid education for the profession in which he is now engaged. He has the confidence of the people of his community, both as a professional man and as a citizen.

Arthur L. Pollard, the subject, was born on March 6, 1885, near Six Points, in Wood county, Ohio. He is the son of Adam Lowry and Hannah (Brand) Pollard. Adam Lowry Pollard was born on May 3, 1855, in Seneca, Pennsylvania, and is the son of Abner and Anna (Wymer) Pollard. Abner and Anna (Wymer) Pollard were both natives of Pennsylvania, the former the son of an Englishman. Adam Lowry Pollard grew up in Seneca county, Pennsylvania, and came to Ohio in 1862, when seven years old. During the last thirty-five years, he has lived in Wood county, Ohio. He was married twice, first to Abbie Parmerter, a widow, who died in Wood county, Ohio. In 1884, Adam Pollard married again. No children were born by the first marriage. Adam Pollard now owns one hundred and five acres. For more than thirty years he ran a store at Six Points, Ohio, but retired from this business in 1914. By Mr. Pollard's second marriage, nine children were born, eight of whom are still living. Dr. Arthur L. was the eldest; Mrs. Lucy Chambers lives near North Rochester, in Freedom township, Wood county, Ohio; Luther died at the age of five months; Charles Raymond was the fourth child; Mrs. Bessie Zeigler lives in Portage township, Wood county; Mrs. Zella Bateson lives in Portage, Wood county. Tressie, George and Theodore, the seventh, eighth and ninth children, are all at home. Mrs. Hannah (Brand) Pollard was a native of Pennsylvania, who was born in 1858, from whence she moved with her parents, at the age of five years, to Seneca county, Ohio, near Bettsville. Later, they moved to Wood county, where she grew up, and where her father died. She was the daughter of Michael and Hannah (Bachman) Brand.

Arthur L. Pollard grew up in Wood county, Ohio. He was edu-

cated in the township schools and lived at home until eighteen years of age, when he went to Jersey City, Ohio, and was there graduated from the high school with the class of 1904. He taught school for seven years in various places in the county, taking summer work in Lima and Oxford. He entered the Veterinary College at Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1911, and spent two years here, and, subsequently, went to the Chicago Veterinary College and was graduated in the class of 1914, after which he came to Continental, Ohio, and purchased the veterinarian practice of James W. Dellenger, D. V. S. He is now actively engaged in the practice of his profession, and has a large business.

Doctor Pollard was married on February 19, 1910, to Floss May Bowman, who was born on June 15, 1888, in Wood county, Ohio, and who is the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Wolfe) Bowman, the former of whom was born in 1841, and died in 1891, and the latter of whom was born in 1851, and who is still living in western Ohio, in Wood county.

John Bowman migrated to Ohio early in life and, for a time, lived in Putnam county. He was a farmer near Miller City, Palmer township. He later sold this farm and moved to Wood county, Ohio, in 1887, where he spent his remaining days on a farm. He was a veteran of the Civil War. He and his wife were the parents of nine children; Mrs. Nellie Wade, of Leipsic, Ohio; one who died in infancy; Mrs. Ida Morris, deceased; William, who died in infancy; Shadrack was recorder of Wood county for six years, after having taught school for seven years, is an attorney of Bowling Green, Ohio; John, now deceased, and who also taught school for seven years, being at the time of his death the superintendent of the Middleton township schools, and a staunch Republican; Mrs. Myrtle Burson, who lives at Tekoa, Washington, her husband being J. P. Burson, an attorney; Mrs. Grace Ladd, who lives at Detroit, Michigan; and Floss, the wife of Doctor Pollard.

Arthur L. and Flossie May (Bowman) Pollard have two children, Helen, born on June 10, 1911, and Robert, born on May 5, 1913.

Doctor Pollard's father was a member of the Maccabees for many years, and an ardent Republican. He also served on the school board for twenty years, and at present is a member of the township board. Doctor Pollard's paternal grandfather was a veteran of the Mexican War, and is one of the four last survivors in Wood county.

Doctor Pollard is a Republican. Mrs. Pollard is a member of the Methodist church. Doctor Pollard is a skillful veterinarian and enjoys a lucrative practice. He is well liked as an energetic and successful young man and is bound to make his mark in the world.



## MATHIAS KONST.

One of the best known young business men of Miller City, Putnam county, Ohio, is Mathias Konst, a liquor merchant of this city. Mr. Konst is a self-made man in every respect, and his financial success is an example of what may be accomplished by hard and conscientious work and strict attention to duty.

Mathias Konst was born at Elm Center, Putnam county, Ohio, on July 18, 1887. He is the son of Lucas and Caroline (Burkhart) Konst. Lucas Konst was born in Holland and came, with his parents when six years of age, to America. His parents, with their children, John, Katherine and Lucas, on coming from Holland, landed in Cincinnati, Ohio. Here Mathias Konst's father, Lucas Konst, was educated and learned the carpenter's trade, and, when a young man, he came with his father and family to New Cleveland, Putnam county, Ohio, settling on a farm of eighty acres. Of the children, John died, Katherine married Mathias Otto and lives at New Cleveland. After coming to New Cleveland, Lucas Konst's father worked at his trade. After his marriage, Lucas Konst began farming on the John Beck place. Later, he purchased a farm of forty-seven acres, at Elm Center, Liberty township, Putnam county, where he farmed for a number of years, or until 1910. He then moved to Ottawa and retired. He died in Ottawa on January 8, 1913. His widow survives him and lives in Ottawa. Lucas and Caroline (Burkhart) Konst were the parents of ten children, Frank, Charles, John, Joseph, Louis, Thomas, Martha, Rudolph, William and Mathias, the subject of this sketch. Frank Konst married Anna Yenner and they live at Continental; Charles was married first to Mary Burlager; she died and he was again married to Caroline Yenner. His second wife died and he now lives at Hicksville, Ohio. John married Catherine Krouse and lives at Leipsic, Ohio. Joseph married Zine Riggs and they live at Ottawa. Louis married Inez Kiefer and they live at Miller City. Thomas married Emma Laird, and they live at Toledo, Ohio; Martha married William Hammond and lives at Sherwood, Ohio; Rudolph married Gertrude Ault, and they live at Ottawa; William is married and lives at San Diego, California.

Mathias Konst was educated in the township schools of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, and spent his boyhood days on his father's farm at Elm Center. After leaving school he learned the barber's trade, and worked at this trade in Continental for five years, and then engaged in the liquor business. He was there in this business for four months and then

came to Miller City, Ohio, where he entered the business with his brother Louis as partner. They also operate a cafe, and both are still active.

Mathias Konst was married on April 19, 1910, to Jennie Klass, a daughter of Joseph and Anna (Steffen) Klass, both natives of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio. Joseph Klass is a farmer and had a family of five children, Jennie, Walter, Oliver, Albert and Florence, all of whom are living.

To Mathias and Jennie (Klass) Konst four children have been born, as follow: Gladys, Edith, Alton and Berneda.

Mathias Konst is the treasurer of Miller City. Throughout his life he has been an active Democrat. He is not a member of any lodges. Mathias Konst, wife and family are members of St. Nicholas's Catholic church at Miller City. Mrs. Konst is a member of the Mother's Society of the Catholic church. They are well known in this section of Putnam county and are highly respected citizens.

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#### WILLIAM WILSON FRANTZ.

What a wonderful heritage a man gives his children in passing from this life when he leaves behind him a knowledge of an active life well spent, and evidences of the good he has accomplished for his age and community. To be considered the foremost man of his county in his day, and the leader in all things pertaining to the welfare of the community, does not fall to the lot of many men, and only those who are truly great in heart and mind, of indomitable energy and unfailing optimism, are capable of winning the trust and confidence which places them in the leadership in matters of public good, especially in a new section. The late William Wilson Frantz, a well-known farmer of Putnam county, Ohio, was a man who belonged to this class of citizens.

William Wilson Frantz was born on September 27, 1849, in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio. He was the son of Simon Edward and Martha Jane (Patrick) Frantz.

Simon Edward Frantz, who was the son of Daniel and Sarah Frantz, was born in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, in 1820, and, with his two brothers, William and Daniel, came to Putnam county in 1834, settling just west and south of Gilboa. Each brother entered one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government, Simon's farm adjoining the town of Gilboa on the west, who died on September 17, 1858. He was married twice, the first time to Mary Conkley, by whom he had four children, two



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM W. FRANTZ.



of whom died in infancy; James and Sarah lived to maturity. He was married a second time to Martha Jane Patrick, who was the daughter of William Patrick and wife, early settlers in Putnam county, whose residence here dates from the year 1834. By his second marriage Simon E. Frantz was the father of four children—William Wilson, Daniel, Martha and Ellen, all of whom are deceased.

William Wilson Frantz grew up in Blanchard township, where he received his early education from the common schools. He remained on the home farm until he was about eighteen or nineteen years of age. His father died when he was about nine years old, and his mother was married again to M. J. Olds, to which union four children were born—Jane, Thomas, Alice and Martha Ellen, who died in infancy.

At the age of eighteen or nineteen years William Wilson Frantz rented the farm owned by his uncle, William, which was located southwest of Gilboa. He farmed this place for several years after his marriage, when he bought of the heirs of his father's estate, the old homestead, just west of Gilboa. He continued to farm this place, until he retired in 1896. He died October 9, 1898.

William Wilson Frantz was married at the age of twenty-three on April 16, 1873, to Mary E. Hoskinson, the daughter of Alpha Robert and Elizabeth (Acord) Hoskinson. Mrs. Frantz was born in this township on March 6, 1851. Her parents settled in Putnam county in 1839. Her father was a native of Virginia, and came to Muskingum county, Ohio, in an early day. His wife was a native of Muskingum county.

To Mr. and Mrs. William Wilson Frantz ten children were born—William P., Robert Ross, Lilly Jane, Zella May, Zoa, Eva, Tony, Clyde, Nettie and Grover W. William P., born August 20, 1874, married Stella A. Maidlow and has had eight children, two of whom died in infancy. He is now the superintendent of the Putnam county infirmary, and is a well-known and popular citizen. Robert Ross, born on November 18, 1875, married Frieda Brown and has three children. He is a farmer and lives in Hillsdale county, Michigan. Lilly Jane, born on November 30, 1877, married John Maidlow and has had three children, of whom one is deceased. Her husband is superintendent of the state serum farm at Columbus, Ohio; Zella May, born on August 4, 1879, married Reno Krohn and has one child. Her husband is a prosperous stock buyer of Pandora; Zoa, born on January 29, 1881, is unmarried and lives at home. She is a teacher in the schools of Columbus Grove, where she has been very successful in her chosen profession; Eva,

born on October 15, 1883, married Julian Kempf and has one child. Mr. Kempf is interested in the Pandora Milling Company, and is a self-made and successful business man; Tony, born on April 8, 1884, married Zella Steele and has one child. He is in business at Pandora; Clyde, born on July 10, 1885, is unmarried; Nettie, born on January 14, 1887, is stenographer for the Ohio state agricultural commission; Grover W., born on September 7, 1889, is also unmarried. Clyde and Grover W. are two of Gilboa's most **progressive and popular merchants**. Their store reflects the character and enterprise of the men back of it. It is one of the most up-to-date stores in Putnam county, and one of which the community has reason to be justly proud. Clyde is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Gilboa. He and his brother, Grover W., are both members of the Free and Accepted Masons at Ottawa.

Thus it appears that William Wilson Frantz, who reared a large family, now successful citizens in many different vocations, has done more for his state and for the county where he lives than he could possibly have done in any other way. No work is greater and no success more admirable than that of leaving sons and daughters, who are guided by industrious habits, worthy ambitions and high ideals. Of such success William Wilson Frantz and his wife have had a large measure.

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#### HENRY B. NARTKER.

To obtain a worthy citizenship and achieve a career that is always honored and respected even from childhood, deserves more than mere mention. One may take his place in public life through some vigorous stroke of public policy and even abide in the hearts of his friends and neighbors, but gradually to rise to the same position, winning through sterling worth and faithfulness to trust, rather than by craving for exaltation and popularity, is worthy the highest praise and commendation. Such a man is Henry B. Nartker, one of the most prominent and influential farmers of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio.

Henry B. Nartker was born on February 7, 1864, at Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. He is a son of Henry and Theresa (Vorterlandwer) Nartker, the former of whom was born in Glandorf, Hanover, Germany, on December 1, 1836, and who died on March 21, 1909, at the age of seventy-two years.

Henry Nartker, Sr., was ten years old when he came to America with his parents, Theodore Nartker and wife, who settled about two miles west of where St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf, is now situated. The county was new in those times, and only a small part of the land was cleared. There, Henry Nartker, Sr., grew to maturity and married Theresa Vorterlandwer, who was born in Ottawa township, Putnam county, and who was a daughter of Herman Vorterlandwer. Herman Vorterlandwer came from Germany and was an early settler near Ottawa.

After his marriage, Henry Nartker, Sr., moved to the northwest edge of Glandorf. He worked at all kinds of work and did anything which was honorable to earn money. By extraordinary diligence he secured a good start in life, although he started in an humble way. In time he owned more than two hundred acres of land. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children, ten of whom grew to maturity. Of these ten, two died later, Mrs. Minnie Horstman and William. The eight living children are Henry B., Mrs. Bernadina Winkleman, Mrs. Mary Wischmeyer, Mrs. Annie Schroeder, Frank, August, Mrs. Emma Maas and Mrs. Lena Fortman. The mother of these children is still living west of Glandorf.

Henry B. Nartker grew up on the home farm and was his father's main assistance in clearing the land. He learned to use an ax and a cross-cut saw very effectively. He took up his abode on the farm where he now lives in section 1, Greensburg township, about 1892, and here he lived alone for about two years, while he cleared the land and operated the farm. At the end of that time he was married and has since made this farm his home.

Mr. Nartker was married in 1894 to Bertha Roepke, who was born in Steinfeldt, Oldenburg, Germany, in 1872. She grew to womanhood in her native country and, in 1891, came to the United States. She first went to Covington, Kentucky, and after about a year's residence in that city, was joined by her parents, Henry and Mary (Honkomp) Roepke. The family moved to near Kalida, Putnam county, Ohio, about 1893, and were farmers there. They now live on a farm between Glandorf and Columbus Grove.

Henry Nartker and wife are the parents of eight children, Alfred, Harry, George, Rudolph, Emma, Ralph, Hildegard and Gilbert. The Nartker family are all devout members of the Catholic church at Miller City and take an active interest in the affairs of this parish.

Henry B. Nartker is now the owner of about one hundred and eighteen acres of fine farming land, on which he has good barns and other outbuildings, as well as a comfortable house, and, in fact, his farm is well kept and cultivated, and he is among the representative and substantial farmers of his neighborhood.

Henry Nartker well remembers his childhood when his grandparents told him the story of their lives in a log cabin with no floor, a chimney made of sticks and plastered with mud, a grease lamp for light, and when they all stayed at home and worked and saved until they secured a good start in life. When H. B. Nartker was a young man he started life in a log cabin, and he and his young wife were happy with the tasks and ambitions ahead of them. His land was purchased for about one-fourth of what it is now worth. He has achieved some of his ambitions and few men are more widely acquainted and more favorably known than Mr. Nartker. He was township trustee for five years, his term of four years having been extended one year by the Legislature. He is a good citizen, a kind father, and a loving husband, and more than that, he is a substantial, enterprising citizen in Greensburg township, where he has made his home for so many years.

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#### JOHN GERBER.

The hardy and rugged little country of Switzerland has produced many of the men who later became numbered with Putnam county's most progressive and valued citizens. They came here filled with the energy and strength engendered by the life in their mountainous fatherland and ready to cope with whatever difficulties might rise before them in the new land of their adoption. As a class, they were intelligent, thrifty and industrious, a combination of characteristics well suited to aid them in procuring success in their efforts to establish themselves in the new country and to procure homes in which they and their children might live and achieve prosperity. Of these people, John Gerber, the subject of this sketch, is a striking example, having achieved marked success and risen to prosperity through his own efforts.

John Gerber was born in Berne, Switzerland, on December 31, 1871, a son of Daniel and Catherine (Scheideger) Gerber. His father was born in Berne on November 4, 1849, a son of Christian and Anna (Geiser) Gerber, both of whom were natives of Switzerland. Christian Gerber was a farmer who raised large herds of cattle and made cheese for the market, a business in which he attained great prosperity. To him and his wife were born eleven children. He died in 1887, and his wife died a year later.

Daniel Gerber, with John and Samuel, two of his younger brothers, came to America in March, 1891. About 1873, Anna Gerber, the eldest daughter of the family, who married Abraham Somers, came to America



and settled first in Indiana and later in Pandora. When Daniel Gerber, his two brothers, his wife and eight children came to America in 1891, his youngest sister, Mary, followed later in the year. She was the wife of Rudolph Peters and came to America just after her marriage. She went to Indian Territory as a missionary, and died about 1905. John Gerber, the uncle of the subject, settled at Madison, Ohio, where he is farming. Samuel settled in Oklahoma. Both are married.

Daniel Gerber settled in Pandora, Ohio, where he now lives. He is a wagonmaker by trade and has lived in Pandora most of the time since coming to America. He and Mrs. Gerber are the parents of eight children, who are: John, Arnold, Carl, Marion, Rosie, Leah, Lena and Adolph. Marion and Leah are residents of Fulton county, Ohio; Adolph lives in Fort Wayne, Indiana; Lena is a missionary in China, and the others make their homes in Putnam county.

John Gerber was nineteen years of age when he came to America. He worked on a farm for six years and then took a position in the planing mill at Pandora, where he worked four years. After he had worked in the mill two years, he married on December 25, 1898, Levina Amstutz, who was born in Riley township, Putnam county, on September 14, 1875, a daughter of Abraham and Catherine (Hilty) Amstutz. Mr. Amstutz's family history is given in the sketch of his brother, P. A. Amstutz, and the family history of his wife is given in the sketch of Isaac Hilty, both of which appear elsewhere in this volume.

To that union was born one daughter, Catherine, who now lives with her grandmother, Catherine Amstutz. Mrs. Gerber died on November 8, 1900. She was a good Christian woman and a member of the Mennonite church.

John Gerber was again married on April 8, 1906, his second wife being Elizabeth Gerber, a daughter of Michael and Catherine (Moser) Gerber. Michael Gerber was a native of Wayne county, Ohio, and Catherine Moser was born in Berne, Switzerland. To John and Elizabeth Gerber three children, Prudence Elnora, Lillian Odula and Elda Elvina, have been born.

After leaving the planing mill, in the spring of 1901, John Gerber was engaged in the manufacturing of overalls, and was one of the organizers of the Pandora Overall Company. He retained his connection with that firm for three years, or until the spring of 1904, when he entered the well-drilling business with Peter Somers. That partnership endured for five years, when Peter Somers sold his interest to John Gerber's brother, Carl. The two brothers remained in partnership for four years, and then Carl sold his in-

terest to their cousin, John G. Gerber, the concern now being known as John Gerber & Co.

John Gerber has been very successful in his business and owns a beautiful brick residence in Pandora, where he now lives. He owns two up-to-date drilling machines and has all the business he can take care of. He averages from fifty to sixty wells each year, and, in all, has drilled about six hundred wells since he first established the business.

John Gerber is a supporter of the Republican party and has always taken an active and intelligent interest in local political matters. For six years he has been a member of the town council.

John Gerber and wife are both members of the Mennonite (Grace) church, and are active workers in all church affairs. Mr. Gerber is an excellent citizen and is highly respected and esteemed by his neighbors.

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#### EARL JOSHUA SHAFFER.

Undoubtedly no other single influence has so much to do with the shaping of the character of the American people as has the public school system, and those associated with this work are indeed doing a noble duty and doubly justifying their existence. A prominent man in the school system of Putnam county is Earl J. Shaffer, of the West Leipsic public schools.

Earl J. Shaffer was born on July 2, 1889, in Putnam county, the son of Joshua and Susan (Campbell) Shaffer, who were the parents of nine children, namely: Homer Newton, a farmer of Paulding county, Ohio; Milton Festus, also a farmer in Paulding county; Americus Vincent lives in West Leipsic; Martha Belle and Lydia Alice both live in Van Buren township; Putnam county; Joshua Smith died young; Myrtle May resides in Paulding county, Ohio; Earl J. is the subject of this sketch; Oscar Turner is chief engineer of a large Lexington, Kentucky, tobacco-drying house.

The paternal grandparents of Mr. Shaffer were Samuel and Elizabeth (Runyon) Shaffer, the former of whom was born in Highland county, Ohio, in 1814, and died in 1898, and the latter of whom was born in Virginia, and died in 1881, aged fifty-nine. Samuel Shaffer was a farmer and stock raiser who never lived outside of Highland county. He was road supervisor for several terms. He was a member of the Lutheran church, a hard-working man, and, like Lincoln, was a famous rail splitter. He was broad-minded and liberal in his views. He and his wife were the parents

of eight children, namely: Lucinda, who died in infancy; Martin Luther and Perry are Highland county (Ohio) farmers; Joshua, whose son is the subject of this sketch; Moses died at the age of four; Sarah Elizabeth died in infancy; Elijah lives in Middletown, Ohio; Mary Susan also lives in Middletown.

Joshua Shaffer was reared and married in Highland county and came to Putnam county in 1884, engaging in farming in 1885, from which year he worked as a farm laborer until 1890, when he bought forty acres of good land in Van Buren township, Putnam county. The land was uncultivated and was made productive by much hard labor. This land was tilled until 1894, when he rented a farm in the same township on which he lived for three years, and then moved to Paulding county, Ohio, where he bought twenty acres of land and lived for five years. Then, returning to West Leipsic, he established a general merchandise store, bringing the most of his stock with him from Paulding county. One year after locating in West Leipsic, the Paulding county farm was disposed of. The store which he established is still in operation and does a thriving business. On November 27, 1867, Joshua married Susan Campbell.

A valued member of Lodge No. 536, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows is Joshua Shaffer. He is a Democrat in his political views, and was a member of the school board of Paulding county for several years and also of Putnam county, and he has served on the election board for several years and is active on the board at present. He is a member of the German Reformed church, of Highland county, Ohio.

The education of Earl J. Shaffer was received in the common schools of Putnam county, and the high school of Grover Hill, from which he graduated on May 12, 1905, and some time afterward took the teacher's examination in Putnam county at Ottawa, Ohio, passing with an average grade of eighty-seven and one-half. For five years, he taught school in Liberty township and for one year in Van Buren township, after which he accepted his present position in the West Leipsic grammar school, in the year 1913. Mr. Shaffer holds the following teacher's certificates; three one-year certificates, two two-year certificates, one three-year and one five-year certificate, the last two being in effect now. Mr. Shaffer is a teacher of great ability, as his winning personality is felt. On October 9, 1912, Mr. Shaffer married Ruby Violet Folk, the daughter of Jacob and Sarah (McIntyre) Folk, and Earl Joshua and Violet (Folk) have one child, Mildred Claire.

Earl Joshua Shaffer belongs to Leipsic Lodge No. 548, of the Free and Accepted Masons, and to Lodge No. 536, of the Independent Order of Odd

Fellows, taking an active part in lodge work and being junior deacon in his chapter of the Masonic order. An active Democrat, firmly advancing the best principles of his party, he was elected in 1911, and still serves as corporation clerk of West Leipsic. He and his family are devout members of the West Leipsic church of the United Brethren. He is financial secretary of the church, superintendent of the Sunday school, and he, with his wife, takes an active part in church duties and functions. Unassuming, yet pleasing with his quiet courtesy, Mr. Shaffer is a good conversationalist and uses his gift to advance educational interests and the general welfare of the community. He is of an uncompromising honesty, and is open and frank in all his dealings, and is accordingly liked by his wide circle of friends and acquaintances, both in Putnam county and elsewhere. He is splendidly well informed and can talk very intelligently on a wide range of topics. He is the type of man who holds our nation in her premier position on the earth.

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#### JOHN C. MADDEN.

American politicians are becoming actively aware of the rapid growth of the Socialist vote in this country, and are being compelled to recognize in this modern development of the political life of the nation a deep-seated protest against the enormous growth of entrenched privilege which has become such a serious menace to the proudest institutions of the government and the basic liberties of the people. There has grown up in this country, along with this protest, in recent years, a very determined demand on the part of the more thoughtful elements of society, that not only the public utilities of the country, but that all lands, mines, minerals and railways, together with all the instruments of production and exchange, should be in the hands of the people, the natural conservators of the public domain. The enormous problem of the unemployed, which so long has been facing our present governmental agencies, is one of the factors that is bringing to the attention of thoughtful persons the claims of the Socialists for a reorganization of the present industrial and economic system and many of these claims, that a few years ago might have been looked upon as chimerical, are now accepted as proper doctrines of government, the approach to paternalism on the part of the federal government being accepted as a most notable concession in this direction. Though there may be a very proper disagreement as to the near approach of the promised millennium of righteousness when all

social wrongs shall be righted, there can be no disagreement on the proposition that there are many very grave social wrongs that stand in need of righting and the pettifogging economists whose grasp upon the stern necessities of the times, is not sufficiently acute to detect the finer shades of meaning in the unceasing clamor that is going up for a correction of much of this modern injustice to propose a proper remedy for the evils thus hinted at, may yet find that the remedies now proposed by the Socialists shall become the universal panacea so long sought. The Socialistic propaganda has many ardent spokesmen in this country and in Putnam county there are not a few whose voices have been lifted for years in this behalf. Among these latter, however, there is none better known than the gentleman whose name the biographer has found pleasure in presenting at the introduction to this brief and modest biographical sketch, Mr. Madden being one of the best known and most active Socialists in this section of the state, his reputation in this direction indeed being state wide, his name having twice been submitted to the suffrages of the people of Ohio for consideration as a candidate for a justiceship in the state supreme court.

John C. Madden was born in Monroe township, Putnam county, Ohio, July 5, 1869, the son of Hiram and Catherine (Davis) Madden, the former of whom was born in Perry county, Ohio, January 9, 1827, the son of John B. and Ruth (Hall) Madden, and the latter of whom was born in Pennsylvania in the year 1827, but who moved to Perry county, Ohio, with her parents at an early age and there grew to womanhood and was married, later moving with her husband to Putnam county. John B. Madden, grandfather of John C., was a native of Virginia, and his wife, Ruth Hall, was a native of Maryland, they having migrated to Perry county after their marriage and there reared their family.

Hiram Madden was educated in the district schools of Perry county, growing up on a farm, early becoming inducted into the principles of agriculture. He was united in marriage in 1851, to Catherine Davis, a member of one of the old families of that county, and, in 1853, moved to this county, settling on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Monroe township, where both he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, he dying on February 27, 1902, at the age of seventy-five years, she surviving but little more than a year, her death occurring in July, 1903. Hiram Madden was one of the best known and most influential men in his section of the county and had served the public most acceptably in the important office of township trustee, besides having held minor township offices, in the administration of all of which he acted with an eye single to the public good. He was a staunch

Democrat and was well known in the councils of his party. Though not an active member of any church, he was a professed Christian and ever was found in the forefront of those seeking to advance the best interests of the people, he and his good wife, who was a timely helpmate, being ready to help those in distress or misfortune.

To Hiram and Catherine (Davis) Madden were born four children: Hugh B., who lives at Lima, Ohio; Mrs. Sarah Jane Whitman, of Monroe township, this county; Mary, who died in infancy, and John C., with whom this article particularly treats.

John C. Madden was reared on the paternal farm in Monroe township, ship, receiving his primary education in the township schools. This he supplemented with a course at the Tri-State College at Angola, Indiana, which institution he entered when he was nineteen years of age. Upon completing the course at this college, he returned home and began the study of law in private readings, after which he took a two-term course at the college at Ada, Ohio, upon the completion of which he returned home and began preparations for the practice of his profession. For one year he was located at Antwerp, Ohio, where he made a good start in the practice of his chosen profession, but at the end of this time returned to Putnam county and opened an office at Continental, where he since has made his home. In addition to his law practice, Mr. Madden is engaged in the real estate, farm loans and insurance business, in which he has been quite successful. He also has the Rawlings Company's agency, medicines and druggists' sundries and supplies, for the county of Paulding, which agency he operates successfully in connection with the extensive business he has established at Continental.

On February 12, 1899, John C. Madden was united in marriage to Miss Ruth French, who was born near Youngstown, Ohio, and to this union two children have been born, Henry and Gwennie, lively young people who are the delight of their parents' lives and the light of their home. John C. Madden takes a prominent part in the social activities of his home town and is exceedingly popular in his rather extensive social circle, at the same time being among the leaders in the good work of the community, ever being ready to lend a hand in all movements having as their object the advancement of the welfare of the people.

John C. Madden is a member of the Masonic and the Pythian fraternities, in the affairs of which he takes an active interest, and though a member of no church, has a helping hand for all deserving charities. For years Mr. Madden has been an ardent Socialist and has taken a very prominent part in the campaigns of that party in this state. In 1912 and in 1914, he

was the candidate of his party for a place on the Ohio supreme bench, and, in both campaigns, made a strong showing, despite the present minority standing of his party. The Socialist party is made up, however, of men who seem to thrive on defeat, and Mr. Madden and many who entertain the same political belief, far from being discouraged at the showing their party has made in former campaigns, are pressing on, urging their cause in the presence of thoughtful people, in season and out of season, believing that ultimately their cause shall prevail. Among the workers in this party in Ohio, none has been more earnest or energetic than Mr. Madden. A wide reader, a clear thinker and a forceful propagandist, his campaigns have been marked by a sanity and lucidity of expression which have commended him to the serious consideration of thinking people, generally, within the range of his utterances and there are many in this section of Ohio who earnestly believe that he has a brilliant political future before him.

While deeply interested in political measures from the viewpoint of the modern Socialist, Mr. Madden does not permit his campaign work to interfere with his duty to the public and there is no more ardent "booster" for civic improvements, better roads and the like, than he. He is a successful man, because he has been diligent in business, it having been one of the rules of his life to give as careful attention to the lesser details of a transaction as to the greater details, and as a consequence he has inspired the confidence and esteem of his business associates and his friends, generally, throughout this section of the state.

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#### JOSEPH KERSTING.

In the year 1874, there arrived in Cincinnati, Ohio, a young German lad by the name of Joseph Kersting. He was only eighteen years of age at the time, and had just enough money to make the long trip from his native land, Germany, to this country. Today this same penniless youth of forty years ago, is one of the well-known men of Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio. He has been a resident of this county since 1886, and was engaged in mercantile pursuits in Glandorf until he took the office of county auditor in the fall of 1905. Since that year he has resided in the county, and since coming out of the office of county auditor, he has been engaged in the fire insurance business. He was the founder of the Glandorf Building and Loan Association, and served as its secretary for many years, and in every way

he has shown his public spirit and desire to do everything possible for the general welfare of his community. He has been very helpful in the cause of education, and has always maintained a decided stand in favor of the public schools. As a business man, his integrity is beyond question and his genial manners and ever-ready willingness to do something for others, has won for him many friends throughout Putnam county.

Joseph Kersting, the present district assessor of Putnam county, Ohio, was born on April 14, 1856, in Westphalia, Prussia. He is a son of Anthony and Katherine (Dorren) Kersting, both of whom spent all of their days in their native land.

Joseph Kersting came to America when he was eighteen years of age, his two brothers, Anthony and Felix, having preceded him to this country and located in Cincinnati. He joined his two brothers in that city and at once became a clerk in a mercantile establishment in Cincinnati. One of his brothers, Anthony, entered the priesthood, and belongs to the Franciscan Fathers, and is now known as Father David. Felix, his other brother, became a merchant tailor and spent most of his life in this country at Miamisburg, Ohio, where he died.

Joseph Kersting became a bookkeeper, after a short time, and while living in Cincinnati, was married. Before his marriage, he had become a traveling salesman for a Cincinnati house, dealing in tailor's trimmings. Still, later, he traveled for a Philadelphia house in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois, which also dealt in tailors' goods. Mr. Kersting moved to Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1886, although he remained on the road as a salesman for two more years. He became a partner with I. H. Kahle, in the general merchandise business at Glandorf, in 1888, and this partnership continued until 1892, when he purchased Mr. Kahle's interests and continued the business alone until 1904. In that year he was nominated on the Democratic ticket for auditor of Putnam county, and was elected in November of the same year. He took his office in October, 1905, for a three-year term, but before the expiration of his first term, the Legislature changed the length of his term to two years, so that his first term was extended a year by the Governor. He was re-elected for another term in addition, so that he held the office for six years, going out of the office in October, 1911. Since retiring from the auditor's office, he has engaged in the fire insurance business at Ottawa, and in 1913, purchased the insurance business of two other firms in Ottawa, that of Zeller & Company, and Glen Claypool. He combined the business of the three firms and turned it over to his two sons, Albert V. and Alphonse A., retaining a silent partnership with them under the firm name of A. V. Kersting & Company. However,



since his election as district assessor for Putnam county, he has retired from active participation in the fire insurance business in order to devote all of his time and attention to the duties of this office.

Joseph Kersting was married on June 3, 1879, to Anna Gieringer, who was born near Cincinnati, on a farm and was a daughter of Anthony and Thirsa (Blase) Gieringer. Her parents came from Wurttemberg, Germany, and located on a farm near Cincinnati, where they spent the remainder of their days. To this union have been born eight children, all of whom are living.

Joseph Kersting and his family are all loyal members of the Catholic church. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Findlay, Ohio. Mr. Kersting and his wife are justly proud of their eight children, all of whom have been given excellent educations and are now honored members of the various communities where they are living. Such, in brief, is the life history of the poor German youth, who came to the United States in 1874 to seek his fortune.

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#### GEORGE D. HAMDEN.

A business man of Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, who has been located here since January, 1877, is George D. Hamden, who has been in the grocery business here for more than thirty-eight years. He has taken a very active part in the building up of the village and is recognized as one of the most prominent citizens of Ottawa. He was left an orphan at an early age and started out to make his own way in the world when a mere lad. Learning the woolen trade, he followed that for several years in various parts of Virginia, Tennessee and Ohio.

George D. Hamden, the son of Henry and Elizabeth (House) Hamden, was born in Loudoun county, Virginia, March 10, 1841. His father was born in the highlands of Scotland, and, in 1821, came to Virginia. He was a machinist by trade, and, after coming to this country, married Elizabeth House, who was born and reared at Hagerstown, Maryland. For ten years after his marriage, Henry Hamden operated a canal boat on the Baltimore & Ohio canal, and in 1850 moved to Logan county, Ohio, where his death occurred about six months later. For the first seven or eight years after his marriage, in 1830, Henry Hamden worked as a machinist in the government arsenal at Harper's Ferry. His wife died in 1851.

When his mother died, in 1851, George D. Hamden was ten years of age. His parents had nine children, but only seven survived the mother, and at the present time only two are living, George B. and Mahala Rice, of Hillsdale, Michigan.

The death of both of the parents of Mr. Hamden left him an orphan, and his uncle, John House, took him to rear. He worked in the woolen mills in Virginia, and learned the woolen trade thoroughly and engaged in that line of business until 1877. He worked in Dayton, Springfield, Marysville, Ohio, and spent two years, 1867-68, in the state of Tennessee. After he had been in this business about seven years, he became the superintendent of a woolen mill and continued as superintendent of woolen mills at various places until 1877. In that year, Mr. Hamden moved to Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, and engaged in the grocery business. At the same time he also started a livery stable and operated both establishments for a number of years. In addition, he sold lime, cement and sewer pipes. For the last few years, Mr. Hamden has given all of his attention to his large grocery business.

George D. Hamden was living at Marysville, Ohio, when he was twenty-one years of age, and despite his youth, was elected as a member of the school board of that village, and held this office for two terms. He has been a life-long Democrat, and wherever he has lived he has taken an active part in political affairs. While living in Marysville, he was not only a member of the school board, but served as marshal of the village for four years. Two years after he came to Ottawa, he was appointed as a member of the school board and later elected and served for a total of seven years. Following this, he served for six years on the council at Ottawa, and then was elected as a member of the waterworks board and had a leading part in the building and management of the waterworks. He has served, continuously, upon the waterworks board since its establishment. He was one of the organizers of the Ottawa Building and Loan Association, and has been an officer of this association ever since it was organized, twenty-seven years ago.

George D. Hamden was married on January 7, 1868, at West Liberty, Logan county, Ohio, to Frances E. Welch, who was born in Champaign county, Ohio, and is the daughter of Rawsen and Elmira (Thrall) Welch. Her father was a woolen manufacturer and Mr. Hamden had worked for him in his boyhood. Mr. Hamden and his wife are the parents of two children, Iva and Iscah. Iva was the wife of Vernon Cummer, who was killed by a boiler explosion at Williamstown, Pennsylvania, in 1900. He

left his widow with a son and daughter, George Edwin and Lyle Vernon. George E. died about two years after his father's death. Mrs. Cummer and her other son, Lyle V., live in Ottawa. Iscah makes his home with his parents.

Mr. Hamden is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and the Royal Arcanum. He is a man who has always been intensely interested in advancing the interests of his home village, and it can be said that Ottawa never had a more public-spirited citizen, or one who took a greater interest in its welfare.

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#### HUBERT C. GERDING.

The Gerding family is one of the pioneer families of Putnam county, Ohio. Hubert C. Gerding was born in this county, as were his parents, while his grandparents, on both sides, were natives of Germany. Mr. Gerding has been connected with a drug store in Ottawa, since 1894, and has been proprietor of his own store since 1904.

Hubert C. Gerding, the proprietor of the "Rexall" drug store, of Ottawa, Ohio, was born in Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, August 23, 1870. His parents, Ferdinand and Veronica (Bockhold) Gerding, were both natives of Glandorf. His grandparents on his father's side came from Germany to America and were pioneer settlers at Glandorf, in this county. Veronica Bockhold was a granddaughter of John G. Bockhold and wife, natives of Osnabruck, Germany, and also early settlers of Glandorf, in this county. Mr. Bockhold was a pioneer tavern keeper at Glandorf. Ferdinand Gerding, the father of Hubert C., was reared on his father's farm in this county and became a saddle and harnessmaker, following that business at Glandorf until his death. He was a soldier in the Civil War. There were five children born to Ferdinand Gerding and wife; two of whom are living, Hubert C. and Harry J., who is living in Lima.

Hubert C. Gerding was reared on his father's farm in this county and after completing the schooling which was offered in his home county, entered the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, leaving the department of pharmacy in the spring of 1894. He at once returned to his home county and accepted a position in his uncle's drug store at Ottawa, remaining in this store for about ten years. He then worked in W. W. Kelly's drug store for a time, and later in the drug store of Anglemyre & Buckley, buying the store of the latter firm in 1904. Since that year, he has been in business for him-

self and his store, known as the "Rexall" drug store, is one of the most attractive stores in this section of the state. He has the exclusive agency for all of the "Rexall" remedies and is a stockholder in the Rexall Company. The store is well stocked with druggist's sundries and by his courteous treatment of customers and his energetic and wide-awake methods of business, he has built up a large and lucrative trade in Ottawa and the surrounding community.

Hubert C. Gerding was married in October, 1897, to Emma B. Kahle, the daughter of Hon. Ignatius H. Kahle and wife, whose history is given elsewhere in this volume. Mr. Gerding and his wife have two daughters, Mary and Eleanor.

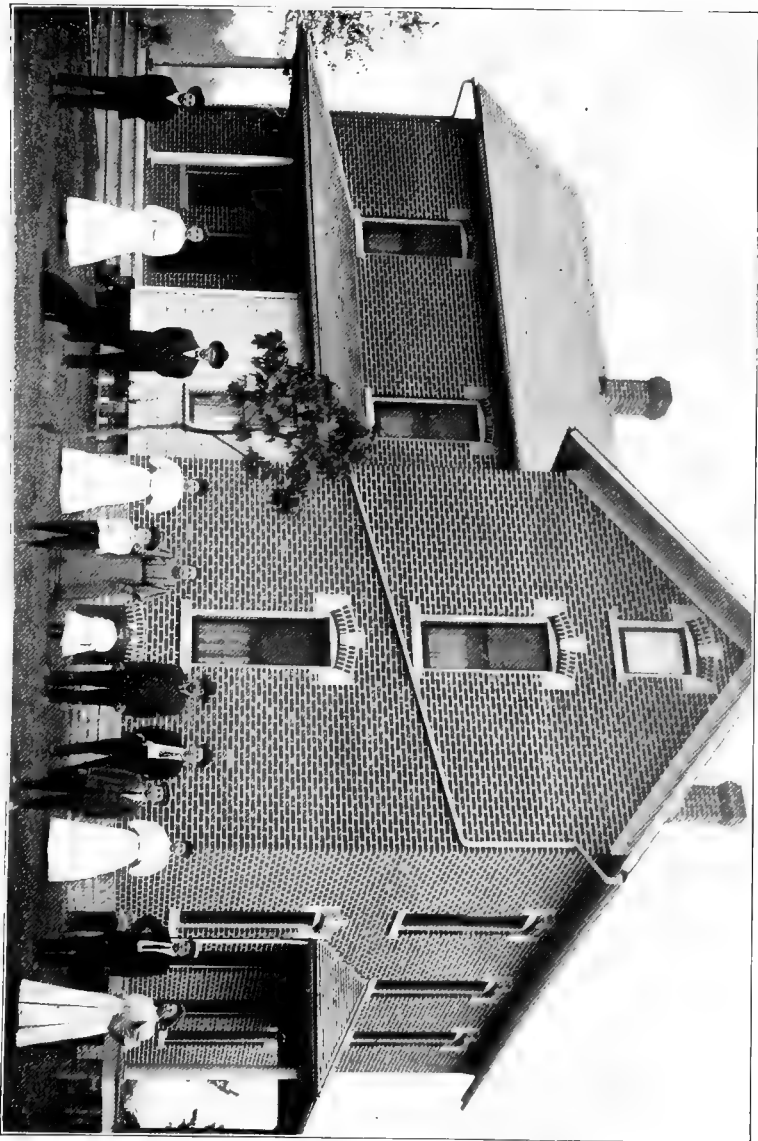
Hubert C. Gerding is a Democrat and has always been interested in local politics. He is now serving his second term as village clerk of Ottawa and administering the duties of this office in a very satisfactory manner. Mr. Gerding and his family are loyal members of the Catholic church.

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#### JOSEPH LIEBRECHT.

Joseph Liebrecht is a well-known farmer of Jackson township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of land in this township, which comprises some of the best farming land in the county. His farm is level, well drained and well fenced, and from any point of view shows the progressive and careful proprietorship of its owner. Mr. Liebrecht began, after his marriage, with forty acres in section 6, of Jackson township, which he first cleared, ditched, fenced and otherwise improved. He built a splendid brick residence in 1907, a large barn having already been built, eight years previously, in 1899. All of the buildings which Mr. Liebrecht has erected are of the most substantial material. The Liebrecht farm has grown in acreage from time to time, until he now has one of the finest farms in Putnam county.

Joseph Liebrecht is a native of Putnam county, Ohio. He was born near Delphos, Jennings township, July 10, 1852. His parents were Frank and Clara (Nierman) Liebrecht. Frank Liebrecht was a native of Germany. He came alone to America, when a young man, and settled on a farm near Delphos. He was reared as a farmer. Frank Liebrecht's father and mother who were also farmers, were both born, lived and died in Germany. Frank Liebrecht married Clara Nierman, at Delphos, and after his marriage pur-



JOSEPH LIEBRECHT AND FAMILY.



chased a farm of forty acres in Jennings township. He made many improvements on the land, having cleared it first of its heavy growth of timber and having built many rods of fence. After operating this forty acres for a time, he sold it and purchased eighty acres in Monterey township, near Ottoville. He cleared most of this farm, erected buildings upon it and otherwise improved it in many ways. Here he farmed until his death in 1854. Frank Liebrecht was not a member of any lodge, and held no public office. He was a Democrat, but never active. He and his family were devoted members of St. Mary's Catholic church at Ottoville.

Joseph Liebrecht's mother was born in Germany, coming to America with her father and three sisters, her mother having died in the Fatherland. She located, with her father and sisters, in Monterey township, Putnam county, where they were among the early settlers of this community. She was about twenty years of age when she came from Germany, and after settling permanently in Monterey township, made this her home until her marriage to Frank Liebrecht. Her father died on the farm in Monterey township, it being the same place where he first located after coming to Ohio, shortly after his arrival in America. After his death, his wife lived on the farm for a time, but afterward sold it, and she is now deceased. Joseph Liebrecht is one of three children born to his parents, the others being William, who lives at Upper Sandusky, Ohio; Mrs. Mary Kiefer, deceased.

Joseph Liebrecht grew to maturity on the old home place in Monterey township. He received practically all of his education in the Ottoville district schools. He remained at home, assisting on the farm, until his marriage, which event took place at St. Mary's Catholic church at Ottoville, Ohio, in October, 1875, at which time Mr. Liebrecht was united in marriage to Mary Bedeker, herself a native of Germany. She died in 1885. Joseph Liebrecht was married on September 4, 1888, to Margaret Gergen, who was a daughter of Mathias and Catherine (Niese) Gergen, who were born in Germany and were married there. About four years after his marriage, Mathias Gergen and wife and children came and settled in Jackson township on a farm. They had two children born in Germany, Nicholas and Margaret, who married Joseph Liebrecht, and Peter, Mary, Susan, Anna, Clara, deceased, born in Putnam county, Ohio. Mathias Gergen died in Jackson township on his farm, May 27, 1910, his wife died on May 20, 1912. They belonged to the St. Mary's Catholic church at Ottoville, Putnam county.

Joseph Liebrecht had five children by his first marriage, as follow:

Eunna, born on December 16, 1876; John, born on March 30, 1878; Barney, born on May 17, 1880; William, born on October 28, 1881; Tille, born on January 31, 1885. By his second marriage there were six children, as follows: Catherine, born on October 12, 1889; Elizabeth, born on March 2, 1892; Frank, born on March 30, 1894; Arnold, born on April 22, 1897; Lawrence, born on May 15, 1900; Veronica, born on July 7, 1905. Of these children, John, the second child, married Elizabeth Kleman, and is engaged in farming in Union township, in this county. He and his wife are the parents of four children, Ascella, Gilbert, Elmer and Lucina. Barney married Flora Heidnischer, and they live in Greensburg township. They are the parents of two children, Sylvester and Rose Marie. Tillie, the fourth child in order of birth, is the wife of Fred Kreinbrink, a farmer living in Greensburg township, and they have two children, Leona and Henrietta. The rest of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Liebrecht are unmarried and living at home.

Joseph Liebrecht is a congenial, progressive and public-spirited farmer and citizen. He is known in the neighborhood where he lives as a good father and husband, and the Liebrechts have a happy home.

Mr. Liebrecht is identified with the Democratic party, but has never been active in politics. Mrs. Liebrecht is a devout member of St. Mary's Catholic church at Ottoville, and her husband and all the children are members of the same church. He has one of the most attractive and well-kept farms in this community.

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### WILLIAM J. VARNER.

A pioneer settler of Putnam county, Ohio, is William J. Varner, who was born, reared and has spent all of his life within its limits. As a boy, he remembers distinctly of the wolves howling around their cabin door, and of seeing the deer roaming through the woods near their house. In fact, all kinds of wild game were abundant in his father's woods in his boyhood days. The Indians were still here when he was a lad and his father often traded them salt in exchange for venison. Consequently, Mr. Varner has been identified with the history of this county from its very beginning, and well deserves the title of pioneer.

William J. Varner, the son of Jacob and Eliza (Guyton) Varner, was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, December 6, 1848. His father was born in Luray valley, Page county, Virginia, of German



parentage. Jacob grew to manhood in Virginia and, when twenty-one years of age, made the long overland trip from Virginia to Putnam county, Ohio, and entered government land in Greensburg township. He cleared a farm and lived here until he was past ninety years of age. His wife, Eliza Guyton, was born in Maryland near Hagerstown, her father being a native of Ireland. Eliza Guyton came to Putnam county with her parents, after she was grown, and her father entered government land in Ottawa township. Jacob Varner and wife were the parents of eight children: Mrs. Mary Ayres; Mrs. Ellen Benedict; Isaiah; Mrs. Ruth Shafer; Mrs. Elizabeth Cushman; William J., of Ottawa; Mrs. Rebecca Bibler and one who died in childhood.

William J. Varner was reared on his father's farm in Greensburg township, and received such education as was afforded by the rude subscription schools of his boyhood days. He remained at home until his marriage and then began farming for himself on rented land. He rented for several years, and then bought a small farm, upon which he began his independent career as a farmer. As he prospered, from year to year, he added to his farm, until he now owns three hundred and fifteen acres, in Greensburg township, and sixty-seven acres, in Ottawa township, part of his farm being within the corporate limits of Ottawa. While he spent most of his time in agricultural pursuits, he has been actively interested in the buying and shipping of live stock for about ten years. He retired from active farm life in 1908 and moved to Ottawa, where he is now residing, after a long and arduous career on the farm.

William J. Varner was married on November 21, 1869, to Anna Simon, who was born in Greensburg township, in this county, a daughter of John P. Simon and wife. Her parents were born near Amsterdam, Holland, and were married in the land of their birth, one of their children being born in Holland. They then came to America, and soon after coming to this country located in Putnam county, Ohio, where Mr. Simon engaged in farming. Later, he embarked in the grocery business at Ottawa and dealt in farm produce of all kinds, in connection with his regular grocery business. Mr. Simon was a man of prominence in his community and became one of the substantial citizens of Ottawa.

William J. and Anna (Simon) Varner are the parents of five children: Nettie, Gertrude, Carl C., Zoe and Laura. Nettie is the wife of John T. Matheny and lives in Greensburg township and has three sons, Nelson, Howard and John Nelson; Gertrude is the wife of William Fridley and lives near Pandora on a farm and has three children, Ethel, Clarence and Charles; Carl C. married Lene Wagner and lives in Ashtabula county, Ohio, on a

farm, where he gives much attention to the dairy business, and has four children, Irene, Jay, William Lowell and Carl Gordon; Zoe is the wife of Eugene R. Hunt, of Ottawa, and has three sons, Lucius, Theodore and William; Laura, the youngest child, died at the age of sixteen.

William J. Varner has always identified himself with the Republican party, and, although he did not seek the office, he was elected treasurer of his township. For about ten years he served on the Putnam county board of agriculture. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and also belongs to the chapter and council. He is a public-spirited and broad-minded citizen and deeply interested in the welfare of those around him, and such a man as lends stability to our commonwealth.

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#### DANIEL M. LEFFLER.

It is a well-authenticated fact that success comes as a result of legitimate and well-applied energy, unflagging determination and perseverance in a course of action which one has decided upon. Success was never known to smile upon the idler or dreamer and she never courts the loafer. Only the men who have diligently sought her favors are crowned with her blessing. In tracing the history of Daniel M. Leffler, a grocer and influential citizen of Leipsic, Van Buren township, Putnam county, Ohio, it is plainly seen that the success which he enjoys has been won by commendable qualities, and it is also his personal worth that has gained for him the high esteem of those who know him and those who have had business relations with him.

Daniel M. Leffler, a well-known grocer of Leipsic, was born on December 21, 1869, in Leipsic, Van Buren township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Daniel G. and Lavina (Hyde) Leffler. The late Daniel G. Leffler, who, during his life, was a commissioner of Putnam county, was born on August 13, 1837, in Fairfield county, Ohio, the son of Solomon and Christina (Weidner) Leffler. Solomon Leffler was born in Somerset, Perry county, Ohio, February 8, 1808, and died on February 25, 1898. His wife, whom he married on October 10, 1833, was born on May 19, 1815, in Wittenburg, Germany, and died on August 27, 1895. When a young man, Daniel G. Leffler came to Putnam county with his parents, who located two and one-half miles north of Leipsic. After living here for twenty-five years, they moved into Leipsic and lived here until their death. Daniel G. Leffler answered Lincoln's first call for volunteers, and in April, 1861, enlisted for

three months in the Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He re-enlisted at the expiration of this period and served for three years, or until Lee had surrendered in Company I, Forty-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Mr. Leffler was wounded three times at Chickamauga. After the war, he married Lavina Hyde in June, 1866. She was born three miles north of Leipsic and was the daughter of Adam and Elizabeth Hyde, who came from Germany.

Mr. Leffler went into the merchandise business in Leipsic about 1866, and continued until 1883, when the store was changed into a grocery. He conducted this store until 1890, when he was succeeded by his sons, Daniel M. and Charles H. He devoted his time, after this period, to looking after his farm and attending to his interests in public affairs. He was a Democrat and a member of the first city council of Leipsic, and served, in all, twelve years as a councilman. At the same time, he was a member of the board of education, treasurer of the school board, and also treasurer of Leipsic. He was appointed county commissioner in 1894 to serve out an unexpired term, and was elected and re-elected, in all seven years. He died on January 4, 1912, while his widow still lives in Leipsic. They were both members of the Lutheran church. Donald G. and Lavina (Hyde) Leffler were the parents of five children, of whom four are living: Charles H.; Daniel M.; Ella A., the wife of T. H. Whisler; and Arletta J., the wife of R. C. Firestine. Edward V. died on July 13, 1901. Mr. Leffler built a hotel at the corner of Defiance and Commercial streets in 1895.

Daniel M. Leffler grew to manhood in Leipsic and from his boyhood helped his father in the grocery store. He grew up as a grocer, and, in 1890, he and his brother, Charles H., became partners in the grocery business, succeeding their father, who had been in the business, and so diligently built up the grocery trade and who had conducted it for so many years. The two brothers have carried on the business as partners since that time.

Daniel M. Leffler was married in the spring of 1891, to Emma M. Pfister, who was born about three and one-half miles west of Leipsic, and is the daughter of Jacob and Barbara (Long) Pfister. Her parents were born in Switzerland and her father was a farmer near Leipsic. Mr. Pfister was an old resident of Leipsic and died in 1890. His widow now lives with Mr. and Mrs. Leffler. Daniel M. and Emma M. (Pfister) Leffler have three children living and one dead: Ray V., born on February 28, 1892; Gladys, March 3, 1894, and died on January 12, 1899; Serge H., April 28, 1896, and Maxine H., August 7, 1905.

Daniel M. Leffler takes an active interest in local public affairs and has served in various capacities, as a member of the board of education, the city council, and also as city treasurer. In all of these positions, he has acquitted himself as becomes one devoted to the cause of good American government. Mr. Leffler and family are members of the Lutheran church.

Charles H. Leffler, the brother of Daniel M., and his partner in the grocery business, was born on April 10, 1868, in Leipsic. He grew up in Leipsic and also helped his father in the store from his boyhood. In 1890, as heretofore mentioned, he and his brother, Daniel M., purchased his father's interest in the grocery store and succeeded him in this business.

Charles H. Leffler was married on September 22, 1909, to Rebecca Wentz, who was born in Findlay, Ohio, the daughter of Jacob A. and Elizabeth S. (Kanable) Wentz. Jacob A. Wentz was born and reared in Hartford City, Indiana, and was married at Bucyrus, Ohio, to Elizabeth S. Kanable. She was a native of Springfield, but was reared in Bucyrus. After their marriage, they resided in Hartford City, Indiana, for about ten years on a farm, when they moved to Cass township, north of Findlay, where Mrs. Leffler was born. Her parents still reside there. On the fifth anniversary of the marriage of Charles H. Leffler and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Wentz celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Charles H. Leffler and wife have one daughter, Elizabeth Lavina. Mr. Leffler and family also belong to the Lutheran church and he is a member of the Knights of Pythias.

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#### ELLIOTT CLARK.

The late Elliott Clark spent his whole life in Putnam county, Ohio. Born and reared in this county, he lived here more than seventy-four years, during which long period he was actively identified with the various phases of his county's development. He was a man of integrity and honor, highly esteemed by those who knew him, and a man whose word was as good as his bond. He was a lifelong farmer and, although primarily interested in his own advancement and the care of his family, he never neglected the duties he owed to the community as a public-spirited citizen. In his passing, the county lost one of its sterling pioneers and a man whose span of life practically covered the history of the county from its earliest beginning.

The late Elliott Clark was born on March 16, 1839, in Ottawa town-

ship, Putnam county, Ohio, and died at his home in Leipsic, October 21, 1913. He was a son of William and Harriett (Woods) Clark. His father was a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and was born on September 1, 1812, a son of Samuel and Margaret Clark, also natives of Pennsylvania.

Samuel Clark was a blacksmith by trade and was employed to construct the ironwork on Perry's flagship, the "Lawrence," which won the memorable battle of Lake Erie in the War of 1812. It was this famous victory which caused the captain to send the message, "We have met the enemy and they are ours," to the President. Before Samuel Clark's work on the flagship was completed, the contract for services had expired, but so anxious was Captain Perry to have the work finished that he gave Mr. Clark double pay until the flagship was ready to launch. Samuel Clark came from Pennsylvania to Wayne county, Ohio, and later removed to Putnam county, locating in this county about 1831. He entered land in Ottawa township, about three miles southwest of the present city of Leipsic. About two years later, William Clark, the son of Samuel, came with his wife, Harriett, and two small children, to Putnam county, where, like his father, he entered government land. Thus it is seen that the Clark family has been identified with the history of Putnam county from its earliest beginning. They started in to make homes for themselves in the wilderness and endured all of the struggles and privations incident to pioneer life in a new country. William Clark prospered and at one time was rated as one of the largest landholders of the county.

William Clark was twice married. First to Harriet Woods, and to this union nine children were born, one of whom died in infancy. His first wife died in 1855, and he later married Lois Edgecomb, whose parents came from Maine to Putnam county, and to this second marriage three children were born, one of whom died in infancy. The second wife of William Clark died in 1896, Mr. Clark himself passing away in 1877.

Elliott Clark was born in Ottawa township, and when a small child moved with his parents to Blanchard township on the present site of Pleasant Grove. It was here that young Elliott grew to manhood and attended the neighboring log cabin school houses. When about twenty years of age, he made a trip to Illinois, which was then considered the far West. He worked in that state for a man who owned a large tract of land on the shore of Lake Michigan, part of which is now covered by the city of Chicago. When young Elliott grew homesick and wanted to return home, his employer who had grown to like him, offered as a reward for staying with him, a tract of land

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for a trifling sum. This particular tract of land he might have had for the asking, later became the site of the great city of Chicago.

After his return home from Illinois, Elliott Clark was married at the age of twenty-one, June 6, 1860, to Julia Ann Payne, a daughter of George Payne and wife, who were pioneers of Putnam county, and to this union were born two children, Laroma and William Cortez. Laroma married Abraham Zimmerman, now deceased, and has one daughter, Mabelle. William C., who is deceased, married Susie Little, and the four children born to this union all died in infancy.

Elliott Clark was married the second time on January 24, 1878, to Susan A. Leffler, a daughter of Solomon and Christina (Weidner) Leffler, and to this second union were born two children, Alura and Charles, who died in infancy. Alura was married to John Welburn Guisbert, who died on April 6, 1905, leaving his widow with one daughter, Florence Clark. Mr. Guisbert was a son of Samuel and Emma D. (Meyers) Guisbert, pioneer settlers of Seneca county, Ohio. John W. Guisbert came to Leipsic and established the leading store and while here he met and married Alura Clark. After his death, the business was sold to Albert Wise.

Solomon Leffler, the father of Mr. Clark's second wife, was born on February 8, 1808, in Shelby county, Ohio, and died on February 25, 1897. His wife, Christina Weidner, was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, on May 19, 1815, and came with her parents to America, at the age of sixteen, to avoid being forced into a marriage with her cousin. Mr. Leffler and his wife were the parents of sixteen children, two of whom died in infancy.

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#### MRS. JEAN P. VALE.

A woman of unusual accomplishments is Mrs. Jean P. Vale, the editor and manager of the *Ottawa Gazette*. Born and reared in Ottawa, of excellent parentage, she graduated from the local high school and then began the teaching of school and music. She began when a young girl to take music and has been interested in music all of her life. After her marriage to a newspaper man, she lived in various parts of the United States for seven years, going with her husband in search of his health. He was a newspaper man and his work took him to the daily papers in large cities, and in this way Mrs. Vale became interested in newspaper work. After her hus-

band's death, in 1902, she became interested in the establishment of libraries for one of the large book companies of Toledo, Ohio, and here demonstrated wonderful capacity for work. She was determined to give her daughter a dramatic education, and with this end in view, made almost superhuman efforts to maintain her daughter in a school in New York City. She has the satisfaction of knowing that her daughter graduated with distinction and has filled an important place in the theatrical world. For the past few years Mrs. Vale has been the editor and general manager of the *Ottawa Gazette*, and in addition to the general editorial management of this paper, she does an immense amount of work on the outside. In fact, she is a woman whose versatility is indeed remarkable, and this brief review can but memorize her achievements.

Mrs. Jean P. Vale was born in Ottawa, Ohio, in the hotel which was then owned by her parents. She is a daughter of Day and Elizabeth (Davis) Pugh. Her father was a native of West Virginia, and of Welsh and Scottish ancestry on both his father's and mother's side. He was a lawyer and practiced his profession at Ottawa for nearly twenty years. Elizabeth Davis was a native of Pennsylvania and survived her husband several years in Ottawa.

Mrs. Jean P. Vale was reared in Ottawa and graduated from the local high school in 1880, when Professor DeFord was superintendent. Early in her childhood days, her parents began to give her music lessons, and after she graduated from the high school, she began to teach music at Leipsic and at Belmore, and also taught in the public schools of West Leipsic for two years.

Jean P. Pugh was married on July 6, 1884, to Edmond L. Vale, and for seven years after their marriage, lived in various parts of the United States. Her husband was in poor health, and in addition to seeking newspaper work in large cities, was also looking for a more salubrious climate in which to live. It was while working with her husband that Mrs. Vale first became interested in newspaper work. After seven years of traveling over the United States, Mr. and Mrs. Vale located at Columbus Grove, in Putnam county, Ohio, where Mr. Vale bought the *Putnam County Vidette*, and operated that paper for about nine years. He was appointed postmaster of Columbus Grove in 1897, and held that position until his death in November, 1902. He died very suddenly, being sick only about six hours before his death. He was a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, the Royal Arcanum, the Modern Woodmen and several other fraternal orders. After

his death, Mrs. Vale continued to manage the postoffice, until a successor could be appointed.

Mrs. Jean P. Vale was left with one daughter, Helene, and it was her dearest ambition to give her daughter a good education. With this end in view she leased the newspaper, which her husband had been managing, and went to New York City with her daughter to give her a dramatic education. She placed her daughter in the American Academy of Dramatic Art in New York and expected to get work of some kind in the city in order to support herself and daughter while the latter was finishing her education. She had expected to get employment in a music or art store, but could not find just what she wanted. However, she was determined to succeed, and it was not until after the holidays that she found a place to work. It was not even office work, but it offered her steady employment at a fair wage. She found a place where she could make patterns in a pattern factory and in this way secured enough money to maintain herself and daughter until the latter completed her course.

After her daughter graduated from the American Academy of Dramatic Art in New York City, Mrs. Vale returned to Columbus Grove and managed the *Vidette* for about a year and a half, at which time she sold the paper to Frank Ward, and went to Toledo, and took a position with Brown, Eager & Hall, the largest book concern of that city. At the time she took this position her daughter was in a hospital and required the attendance of nurses day and night, and it was the direst necessity which spurred the mother to find something to do in order to take care of her daughter. The position which she accepted with the book company had been considered exclusively a man's field, and she was the first woman the company had ever placed on the road. She secured the position by answering an advertisement for a man, and, in fact, before she secured this position, she answered at least a hundred advertisements asking for men. This position necessitated her traveling throughout the country, establishing libraries, and when on the road she frequently walked as far as four miles into the country to see members of committees with whom she had to deal. After spending three and one-half months on the road for this company, they offered her a position in the store at Toledo, where she was given charge of one of the book departments. She remained six months longer with this company and then returned to Putnam county, and entered the office of the *Ottawa Gazette*, and has been connected with this newspaper ever since. A few years ago, the paper was sold to a stock company, and the directors placed Mrs. Vale in complete



charge of the paper, and since that time she has acted both as editor and manager.

In addition to editorial duties on this paper, she is correspondent for ten newspapers and writes club papers for a clientage extending throughout Ohio and into many neighboring states. She writes addresses of welcome, formal addresses and papers on all sorts of topics requiring research work. In addition to her manifold duties as a newspaper writer, she has also taught instrumental, as well as vocal music. She is an accomplished vocalist and has a contralto voice with a range of more than two octaves, ranging from E-flat below middle C to F above. She has sung for several years in choirs and quartettes from Iowa to Ohio. She has written much verse which has been put to music, and among other songs has written a love song, entitled, "Surrender Your Heart to Me," a song which she composed so unconsciously that she at first thought she had probably heard it elsewhere. Versification comes very easily to her and much of her poetry has real literary merit. Limericks, songs, sonnets and beautiful sentiments for post-cards flow from her fluent pen with little effort. She has a facility of expression which gives a poetic charm to that which others would pass by as commonplace.

Mrs. Jean P. Vale is an incessant worker, and has little use for the idler in life. When she was teaching music, she taught all day steadily and allowed herself eighteen minutes for dinner, and after spending a similar length of time at the supper table, she continued teaching in the evening. She has accomplished so much because she has worked for it. Much of her hard work in her earlier years was inspired by the promptings of necessity, and by the desire on her part to give her daughter a good education. Although Mrs. Vale has shown the ability to do a man's work, yet she is neither masculine in looks nor manner, but maintains her distinctive womanly charm.

This brief resume of Mrs. Vale's life cannot be dismissed without saying something concerning her accomplished daughter. Helene is a beautiful girl of marked theatrical ability. She has spent several years on the stage, although she is at the present time engaged in giving readings. She started out as a member of the Military Octette, in the Laskey-Rolfe production, and was with this company for several years. Later, she played with a stock company in Toledo and Brooklyn. For some time she was on the Keith vaudeville circuit and made the larger cities of the East and Middle West.

## FRANK GIESKEN.

The student interested in the history of Putnam county does not have to carry his investigations far into its annals before learning that Frank Giesken has long been one of its leading citizens in agriculture, stock raising and business, and that his labors have been a potent force in making this a rich, agricultural region. For several decades he has carried on general farming, gradually improving much valuable land which he owns, and, while Mr. Giesken has prospered, he has also found the time, opportunity and inclination to assist in the material and civic development of Putnam county.

Frank Giesken was born on December 26, 1860, in the southeastern part of Greensburg township, where he now lives. He is the son of John and Clementine (Rieman) Giesken, the former born in Hanover, Germany, in 1805. John Giesken came to America in 1835 and worked two months in Buffalo, after which he came to Toledo and there cut cord wood on the site of what is now Summer street. It was then covered with timber. Mr. Giesken could have purchased the land for two dollars and fifty cents an acre at that time, but decided to come on to Glandorf, Putnam county, which was as good a town or better than Toledo. After one winter in Toledo, he came on to Glandorf in the spring of 1836, walking from Toledo. In Putnam county he purchased eighty acres in the southeast part of Greensburg township. All of this land was covered with timber and Mr. Giesken passed through the toil and hardships necessary to the pioneer life of this community. Here he made his permanent home and in time purchased eighty acres more. He was a life-long farmer. He married Clementine Rieman, who was born in Oldenburg, Germany in 1819, and came to America in 1830 with her parents. They landed in Baltimore and traveled from Baltimore to Pittsburgh with a four-mule team to haul their baggage. Clementine Rieman walked all the way from Baltimore to Pittsburgh with her parents. From Pittsburgh they came by boat to Cincinnati, where she lived until seventeen years old, attending school there. From Cincinnati the family moved to Putnam county on foot, from which place it required a week to walk to Glandorf, and after arriving in Putnam county, the family located along the west line of Ottawa township, where her parents made their permanent home.

Frank Giesken is one of five sons and five daughters born to his parents, John, deceased, who made his home in Missouri; Elizabeth, the widow of Joseph Lemkuhle, of Kalida; Clara, deceased, who was the wife of Henry Frede and lived in Missouri; Henry, of Monterey township; Mary, who

died at the age of two and one-half years; Catherine, deceased, who was the wife of Joseph Frede and lived in Missouri; Clementine, deceased, who was the wife of Charles Eickholt and lived in Missouri; Joseph, deceased, who lived in Monterey township; Frank, of Greensburg township; and Barney, of Shepherd, Michigan.

The father of these children died on June 29, 1892, and the mother followed him on December 17, 1905. The father was eighty-seven years old and the mother about the same age at the time of their deaths. She was well preserved and had her second eyesight at the time of her death. She was also able to use a needle. Both the father and mother were unusually well educated and especially well versed in the Bible. Both had wonderful memories.

Frank Giesken grew up on the home farm, and, in 1900, was married to Elizabeth Halker, who was born two miles south of Glandorf on a farm. She is the daughter of William and Louisa (Vogeding) Halker, whose family history is given in connection with that of Mrs. Giesken's brother, George Halker. To Mr. and Mrs. Giesken, eight children have been born, Anna, who died at the age of sixteen months, Mary, Veronica, Frances, Harry, Lawrence, Clara and Leo.

Since his marriage, Mr. Giesken has farmed the home farm where he was born. He has purchased more land and now has three hundred and fifty-six acres and has lately bought fifty-eight acres in addition, making a total of four hundred and fourteen acres. He has remodeled his house and barn and has one of the finest farms in Putnam county. The house is heated with hot water and is modern throughout. Mr. Giesken has also built fine large barns and has a splendid farm in every respect. He has made a specialty of registered Percheron horses and makes a business of raising them for the market. He also raises pedigree Shorthorn dairy cattle. Mr. Giesken has been raising thoroughbred horses for about eight years, but has just begun to specialize in thoroughbred cattle. He has about fifteen head at the present time. He has had wonderful success with his horses, having sold several two and three-year-old colts for five and six hundred dollars apiece. His horses are better than some that have sold for more than two thousand dollars.

For the past eight years, Mr. Giesken has been interested in the hardware business and is a member of the firm of Fisher & Giesken at Glandorf, who handle hardware of all kinds, building material, automobiles and farm implements. This firm does a large and flourishing business in Putnam county.

Frank Giesken has taken an active interest in public affairs throughout his life. He has served as township trustee, as township assessor and was a member of the school board for seventeen years. He is now a member of the county school board and has held other appointive county offices. The Giesken family belong to the Catholic church at Glandorf and Mr. Giesken is a member of the Knights of Columbus. He is well known as one of the leading and progressive farmers in Putnam county and stands high in the estimation of the people of this county, a standing which he richly deserves for his many good works and high-minded ideals of American citizenship.

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### JULIAN KEMPF

The stability and prosperity of any community is determined largely by the character of the business men in whose hands the life of the community, to a great extent, lies. This responsibility rests even more heavily on the younger business men, for on them depends the future prosperity of the community, and it is their integrity and energy which will determine the standard of citizenship which the community is to maintain. In this respect, Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, is indeed fortunate in numbering among its younger and rising business men many whose integrity cannot be questioned and whose energy and business enterprise is being daily demonstrated. Of these the subject of this sketch, Julian Kempf, is an excellent example.

Julian Kempf was born on March 20, 1883, in Pandora, Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, a son of Rudolph and Anna (Wehrley) Kempf. Rudolph Kempf was born in Berne, Switzerland, April 9, 1852, and died in Pandora, Putnam county, August 21, 1914. He was a son of Christian and Mary Kempf.

Christian Kempf, about whom little is known, operated a tile mill in Switzerland. He and his wife were the parents of sixteen children, nine of whom were boys and seven girls.

Rudolph Kempf came to America in 1868, when he was twenty-one years of age. He came direct to Ripley township, Putnam county, where he remained for about three years. During that time he was employed on the farms of Daniel King and Isaac Hilty. He was then recalled to Switzerland on account of his mother's death. Shortly afterward he returned to this country and again resumed farm work, in which he continued until the

time of his marriage, October 2, 1881. He married Anna Wehrley, who was born in Riley township, Putnam county, in March, 1855, a daughter of Anthony and Catherine (Suter) Wehrley. Her father was a native of Switzerland and her mother was born in Riley township.

After his marriage, Rudolph Kempf entered the quarry business and conducted a stone quarry, which had formerly been known as the Hart stone quarry. He remained in that business for several years and then entered the mercantile business, at Pandora, in which business he remained for several years. When Julian Kempf was six or seven years of age, Rudolph Kempf engaged in the restaurant and meat business for about three years. For the next ten or twelve years he operated a dray line, and was then appointed township road supervisor, which position he held until his death, about five years later.

Rudolph and Anna (Wehrley) Kempf were the parents of two children, Mary and Julian. Mary is now the wife of Noah Schumacher, and lives at Pandora. They are the parents of three children.

Julian Kempf spent his childhood and youth in Pandora, where he attended the common schools and the high school. After he had completed his studies, he began his business career by assuming charge of his father's dray line, in which business he remained four years, or until August, 1904, when he entered the employment of the Pandora Milling Company.

His first duties with the milling company were of a minor character, but, as he proved his efficiency, he was given more responsible duties, and at the end of two years was put in charge of the company's accounts. At that time he was also made secretary of the company, a position which he still holds.

On January 4, 1904, he married Eva Frantz, of Gilboa, a daughter of William W. and Elizabeth (Hoskinson) Frantz. She was born at Gilboa, Ohio, October 15, 1882. She attended the public schools of Gilboa and remained with her parents until the time of her marriage. The details of her family history are given in the sketches of her brother, William Pratt Frantz, and Frantz Brothers, which appear elsewhere in this volume.

To Julian and Eva (Frantz) Kempf have been born two children, Francis, who was born on November 26, 1911, and Elizabeth, who was born on January 31, 1915. Mr. Kempf is a supporter of the Democratic party and has taken an active interest in the political affairs of his community. He has been twice elected town councilman, and was appointed clerk of the corporation to fill out an unexpired term, discharging the duties of the office so satisfactorily that he was later elected to the office.

Julian Kempf is a clean-cut and progressive young business man of unquestioned integrity. He is junior member of the firm of Steiner, Hilty & Kempf, who operate the Pandora Milling Company, a position into which he gradually worked himself by keen and efficient business ability. He is popular with all who know him and is a prominent member of his community.

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#### FRED A. HERMILLER.

Among the representative farmers of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, there is none who occupies a more highly respected position than Fred A. Hermiller, a young farmer of this township. As a self-made man, he stands as a shining example of what may be accomplished by hard, conscientious work and strict attention to business. The farmers of this country have always been the bone and sinew of the land and they will continue to be so for many generations to come. Mr. Hermiller is one of those young men who has appreciated the present-day opportunities of the farmer and he is devoting his life assiduously to his chosen profession and business. He is a young man who believes strongly in public improvements, also believes in maintaining his farm in a good state of cultivation, and has made an unusual success for the comparatively short time he has been engaged in farming.

Fred A. Hermiller was born in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, January 16, 1892. He is the son of William and Philomena (Recker) Hermiller. William Hermiller was born in January, 1858, in Ottawa township, and died on November 24, 1910. He was reared as a farmer and educated in the Ottawa township schools. He remained on his father's farm until his marriage to Philomena Recker. After his marriage, he moved to Union township, where he had purchased eighty acres of land. Subsequently, he added to this farm until he had over four hundred acres, or about four hundred and twenty-five acres, at the time of his death. Throughout his life, he was a hard worker. He cleared a good portion of his land and farm until his death. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Philomena Recker, was also a native of Ottawa township. Her parents were Henry Recker and wife, natives of Germany, who settled in Ottawa township, Putnam county, in pioneer times. They underwent the privations of pioneer life and of home-building in the wilderness. They were accustomed to the howl of wolves and the yells of the Indians. Mrs. Philomena Hermiller survived



MR. AND MRS. FRED A. HERMILLER.





her husband and lives on the homestead in Union township. She had been an excellent mother and a hard worker all of her life. She has played her part in building up the family fortune and in rearing her children. Having assisted nobly in this work, she now enjoys the satisfaction of knowing that her children are well provided for.

William and Philomena Recker had eight children, Benjamin, Louis, Fred, the subject of this sketch, William, Herman, Mary, John and Denia. The last five named live on the home farm in Union township. Benjamin, who is a farmer in Union township, married Elizabeth Verhoff and has one daughter, Marcella; Louis, who is a farmer in Palmer township, married Mary Hannaman, and has one daughter, Marcella. William Hermiller was a Democrat but never held office. He was a member of the Catholic church at Glandorf, where all the members of the Hermiller family are identified.

Fred A. Hermiller was educated in the Union township public schools. He remained on his father's farm until his marriage, after which time he moved to his present farm in Greensburg township. He purchased seventy-eight acres from his father's estate and most of the buildings were erected on the farm when he came to it. He has made many additional improvements, and keeps the farm under a fair state of cultivation. Mr. Hermiller purchased the farm in August, 1914, and was married in the spring of the same year.

Fred A. Hermiller was married on June 2, 1914, to Amalia Hannaman, who was born in Union township, Putnam county, September 12, 1893. She is the daughter of Barney and Anna (Rolfes) Hannaman. Barney Hannaman was born in Glandorf, Germany, and came to America, with a colony, at the age of eighteen years, to escape the army services in Germany. He settled in Ottawa township, Putnam county, which at that time was heavily timbered. He played his part in building up the settlement in this township. He worked on a farm until his marriage and afterward bought a farm in Union township, consisting of forty acres. He farmed this and added to it until he had accumulated one hundred and ninety-five acres. He still lives on this farm. Mrs. Anna Hannaman was born in Germany and came to America alone when about twenty-two years old. She was educated in Germany. She settled in Ottawa township, Putnam county, near Glandorf, where she was married. She is still living on the homestead farm in Union township. Barney and Anna Hannaman reared a family of six children, Mrs. Henry Jerwers, of Union township; Frank, who lives on the home farm; Milea, the wife of Mr. Hermiller; Mrs. Louis Hermiller, of Palmer

township; Clementine and Joseph, who live at home. The Hannaman family are all members of the Catholic church at Glandorf. Mr. Hannaman is a Democrat.

Fred A. Hermiller is not a member of any lodge and has held no offices. He is identified with the Democratic party, and together with his wife, are members of the St. Nicholas Catholic church at Miller City. They have no children. Mrs. Hermiller was educated in the township schools of Union township and lived on her father's farm until she was married. Fred A. Hermiller is a congenial, industrious farmer, well-liked and possessed of a sterling character. He is favorably known in this community and comes of old pioneer stock.

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#### WILLIAM F. VERHOFF.

The record of the gentleman whose name introduces this article, contains no exciting chapter of tragic events, but is replete with well-defined purposes, which, carried to successful issue, have won for him an influential place in business circles and high personal standing among his fellow citizens. His life work has been of unceasing industry and perseverance and the systematic and honorable methods which he has ever followed have resulted not only in gaining the confidence of those with whom he has had dealings, but also in the building up of a farming estate of fair proportions.

William F. Verhoff is the son of Theodore and Elizabeth (Egbers) Verhoff and was born on August 22, 1866, in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio. The father was born on June 17, 1838, and is the son of Francis and Mary (Kramer) Verhoff, early settlers in Putnam county, Ohio, a complete sketch of whom is given elsewhere in this biographical work.

The subject of this review was reared under the parental roof and secured his education in the schools of Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio. Upon attaining mature years he decided to continue farming, and, on April 22, 1891, was married to Agnes Lemper, born on November 19, 1866, daughter of William J. Lemper and wife. Mrs. Verhoff's parents were natives of Germany, leaving there in 1867, emigrating to this country and settling on a farm four miles west of the town of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. To them were born five children, Theresia, Clara, William, Agnes and Mary. Clara was married to William H. Edelbrook and now resides on a farm one and one-half miles south of the town of Kalida, Ohio; William was married to Helena Wortman, who is now living in Saginaw,

Michigan; Mary Leper was married to Barney Verhoff and resides in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio.

After the marriage of Agnes Lemper to William F. Verhoff, they removed to the farm which formerly belonged to her father, William Lemper, and to them were born seven children, names and birth dates as follow: Ben, on March 9, 1892; Joseph, on December 29, 1893; Adela, on October 18, 1895; Martha, on April 12, 1899; George, on June 23, 1903; Amanda, on July 7, 1907; Agnes, on September 27, 1914. Of these children, Ben was married on October 29, 1913, to Theresa Rahrig, daughter of Frank Rahrig and wife, who reside six miles south of the town of Grafton, Lorain county, Ohio.

William F. Verhoff is the owner of one hundred sixty acres of good farm land, in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, and, with his wife, has made this place their home for the past eight years. Desiring to gain a little more farming land for special purposes he recently acquired a tract consisting of eighty acres near the town of Owosso, Michigan. The son, Ben, and wife make their home on a farm near Owosso, and are following out the example of thrift and industry set for them. Thus far, the life of Ben Verhoff has been one of strenuous activity and by reason of his ambition it is predicted by his many friends that he will occupy a place of great usefulness and distinction at no late date in the future. The entire family are devout and practical members of St. John's Catholic church in Glandorf, Ohio, and socially move in the very best circles of this region.

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#### HENRY HILTY.

The history of a county or state, as well as that of a nation, is chiefly a chronicle of the lives and deeds of those who have conferred honor and dignity upon society. The world judges the character of a community by those of its representative citizens, and yields its tribute of admiration and respect to those whose words and actions constitute the record of a state's prosperity and pride. Among the prominent citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, who are well known because of the part they have taken in the community life, as well as the fact that they come from an old and honored family, is Henry Hilty, a prominent farmer and stockman of Riley township.

Henry Hilty was born on April 19, 1868, in Riley township, Putnam

county, Ohio. He is a son of Isaac and Annie (Blosser) Hilty, whose family history may be found in the life story of Isaac Hilty, contained elsewhere in this volume.

Henry Hilty was born on the old Hilty homestead northwest of Pandora, and here he spent his childhood, attending the common schools of Pandora. After finishing school he continued to assist his father on the farm and in the saw-mill until he was twenty-four years of age, at which time he was married. After his marriage he started farming for himself, one and one-half miles north of Pandora, where he rented the Abraham Lichty farm. Here he remained for two years and then removed to a farm two miles southeast of Columbus Grove. This farm was owned by Theodore Kuneke, and here Mr. Hilty remained three years. He then moved to the old homestead farm and operated his father's stone quarry for four years. Subsequently, Mr. Hilty purchased a farm of his own, comprising one hundred acres, located two miles northwest of Pandora. This farm is well improved, has a modern, ten-room residence, large and commodious, and other outbuildings in keeping with the large and imposing house. Mr. Hilty has always been a general farmer, but he has made a specialty of the raising and breeding of Percheron horses and Shorthorn cattle. He received the first prize for a yearling Percheron stallion at the county fair in 1913.

Henry Hilty was married on November 17, 1891, to Sarah Ann Zimmerman, who was born one and one-half miles east of Pandora, January 1, 1868. She is a daughter of Jacob and Fannie (Amstutz) Zimmerman. Mrs. Hilty spent her childhood and youth with her parents, with whom she remained until the time of her marriage.

Mrs. Hilty's father, Jacob Zimmerman, was born in Fulton county, Ohio, January 8, 1844, and died at Pandora, July 17, 1912. He was a son of John and Fannie Zimmerman, both natives of Switzerland. They had four children before coming to America, a fifth child dying on the voyage across the Atlantic. They came direct to Fulton county, Ohio, where John Zimmerman probably entered government land, and after the children grew to maturity they removed to Henry county, Ohio, where Mrs. Zimmerman died, and Mr. Zimmerman was married a second time, to a Miss Schwartz, and to this union there were five daughters and five sons born, one of whom was Jacob Zimmerman, the father of Mrs. Hilty. Jacob Zimmerman was reared in Fulton county and came to Putnam county as a young man, where he was married to Barbara Amstutz, a daughter of Christian Amstutz and wife, and to this union one child was born, Christian. After the birth of this child Mrs. Zimmerman died, and Jacob Zimmerman then returned to

Fulton county, where he remained for about one year. Subsequently he returned to Putnam county and married Fannie Amstutz, a niece of his first wife, and a daughter of John and Annie Amstutz, and to this union eleven children were born, five sons and six daughters. Sarah Ann, the eldest child, is now the wife of Henry Hilty. Among the other children were Menno, Emil, Noah, Ella, Edwin, Jacob, Levina, Fannie and Ezra.

Jacob Zimmerman was a farmer by occupation, and after his second marriage remained in Putnam county until his fourth child was born, when he removed to Henry county, where he operated a farm for ten years. He then returned to Riley township, Putnam county, and for six years lived on a farm one mile west of Pandora, after which he removed to a farm one and one-half miles southeast of Pandora, where he lived for four years. After this he moved to Pandora, where he engaged in the livery business and in teaming. He died suddenly on July 17, 1912.

To Henry and Sarah Ann (Zimmerman) Hilty three children have been born: Melvin, on January 30, 1893; Lester, November 13, 1897, died on March 21, 1908; Gladys Elizabeth, August 3, 1905.

Henry Hilty is independent in politics, and believes in supporting measures and men rather than parties. He, with his wife, is a member of the Missionary church, in which they are both active. Mr. Hilty is a clean-cut and progressive farmer. He is a man who is well known in Riley township, a man of splendid character, of untiring energy and of broad-minded, liberal views in all respects.

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### ISAAC HILTY.

The biographies of representative men of a county bring to light many hidden treasures of mind, character and courage, well calculated to arouse the pride of their family and of the community. It is a source of regret that the people are not more familiar with the personal history of such men in the ranks of whom may be found farmers, mechanics, teachers, lawyers, physicians, bankers and men of other professions and vocations. Isaac Hilty is distinctly one of the leading citizens of Putnam county, and as such has made his influence felt among his fellow men. He has earned a reputation for enterprise, integrity and honor that entitles him to worthy notice in a work of the nature of this volume.

Isaac Hilty was born in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio, on May 19, 1843, the son of Peter and Elizabeth (Neuenschwander) Hilty.

Peter Hilty was born in Switzerland, September 8, 1821, the son of Peter Hilty, Sr., and wife, the latter's maiden name being Lugibihl.

Peter Hilty, Sr., came to America in 1826, with his wife and five children. These children were John, Barbara, Peter, Catherine and Christian. On the voyage to America his wife died. Peter Hilty, Sr., came direct to Ohio and settled near Dalton, in Wayne county. Peter, Jr., was taken by the Lugibihl family to be cared for. They lived in Holmes county, near Winesburgh, and it was with this family that he lived until he reached manhood. Peter Hilty, Jr., came with the Lugibihl family to Putnam county in 1837. He was sixteen years old at this time, and continued to live with the Lugibihl family until he was married.

Peter Hilty, Sr., worked on the Ohio & Erie canal, which was then being built in eastern Ohio. Little is known of his life, after coming to America, except that he owned a farm of eighty acres in Richland township, Allen county, and that he spent his declining years with his son, Peter, Jr., in Richland township. He died there in 1868 at a ripe old age, probably seventy-seven years of age.

At the age of twenty, Peter Hilty, Jr., was married to Elizabeth Neuenchwander, in the spring of 1841. She came to America with her parents when she was five years old. She was a native of Switzerland, and her people came to America, settling in Wayne county, in 1824. They later moved to Allen county, where they owned a farm of eighty acres. Peter Hilty, Jr., after his marriage, purchased a farm in Richland township, Allen county, and cleared and improved it. He was a hard-working farmer, and in addition to general farming, he raised truck, such as potatoes and melons, for the Lima market. When he died, on April 8, 1892, he owned one hundred and twenty acres of land. In addition to this, he helped his children to get a start in the world, rendering them considerable financial assistance. He was a man of splendid character and a devoted member of the Menonite church, of which his wife was also a member. Peter and Elizabeth Hilty had eleven children: Isaac, the subject of this sketch; John S.; Barbara; Catherine; Benjamin; Noah; Susan, who died in infancy; Mary, deceased; Peter B.; Samuel and Elizabeth, deceased. Isaac Hilty was the eldest child and his childhood and youth were spent on the old homestead in Richland township. Here he received his early education and helped his father on the home place until he was twenty-three years old.

Isaac Hilty was married on December 6, 1866, to Anna Blosser, a daughter of Henry and Catherine (Basinger) Blosser. After his marriage he moved to the old Blosser homestead, which he rented from his wife's

mother. This farm of one hundred and seventy-five acres he later purchased, and it is here that he still resides.

Henry Blosser was the son of Henry and Magdalena (Shank) Blosser, who were natives of Virginia. Henry Blosser, Jr., was also a native of Virginia and came to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1837. He was a blacksmith by trade, and a mechanical genius. He was county surveyor of Putnam county for several years, and also did a great deal of surveying for private parties. He made all of his implements, including his compass, the needle of which he charged with a lodestone found by his father in the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia. Mr. Blosser finally devoted all of his time to farming, which occupation he followed until the time of his death, in 1863. His wife was a daughter of Christian and Fannie (Schuhmacher) Basinger, both natives of Switzerland, and who came to America in an early day. Christian Basinger first came to Virginia, landing at Alexandria, and went to live with the Blossers, who were rather wealthy for those days. It seems they had an extra farm, which was run down, and on this place they put young Christian in charge. He succeeded so well, in a few years, that when he settled with the proprietors, he received enough money to come to Ohio and start in for himself. He came first to Columbiana county, and, a short time later, removed to Putnam county, where he entered land from the government.

After his marriage, Isaac Hilty became interested in the threshing business, which he followed successfully for about twenty years. He also operated a stone quarry for several years, and for a period of eighteen or twenty years he operated a saw-mill. All of this business he carried on in addition to his operation of the farm. He has been a successful farmer and has always done general farming and stock raising.

To Isaac Hilty and Anna (Blosser) Hilty ten children have been born: Henry, Elizabeth, Catherine, Peter, Jesse, Sarah, Mary, Minnie, Aldine and Abraham. Henry, who lives in Riley township, Putnam county, married Sarah Zimmerman and has three children: Melvin; Lester, who died at the age of ten years, and Gladys. Elizabeth, after finishing her common school education, attended the Ohio State Normal at Ada, where she took a course in music. After this she attended the Bible Training Institute at Bluffton and Fort Wayne, and was appointed to a post as a foreign missionary, going to China in 1905, where she remained for six years, and, after a vacation, she again resumed her work. In her efforts in behalf of humanity she has been very successful. Catherine, who died at the age of forty-one, was unmarried. Peter, who lives on the home place, married Dora Long and

has two children, Irvin and Margaret. Jesse, who lives in Pandora, married Rosella Rice and has one son, Aaron. Sarah died at the age of four years. Mary, who is unmarried and lives at home, after attending the common and high schools, attended the Bible Training Institute at Fort Wayne for two years. Minnie, after graduating from the common and high schools, attended the Ohio State Normal School at Ada, after which for several years she taught school and attended the Fort Wayne Bible Training Institute. After completing this work, she joined her sister, Elizabeth, and went to her new field in China in 1913. Aldine, who lives at Lima, Ohio, married Delia Basinger and has two sons, Francis Harold and Karl Edward. He was graduated from the high school and taught school successfully for two years. He is now in the real estate business. Abraham, who lives at home, married Nettie Basinger and has two children, Cyril Stanley and Marceille Elizabeth.

Isaac Hilty is a Democrat, but he is more or less independent in his voting. He was township treasurer for several years and for about twenty years was school director. For many years, also, he was a member of the school board and successfully discharged the duties of all of these offices. Mr. Hilty is a member of the Missionary church, of which his wife is also a member. He is a member of the missionary committee of that church, with headquarters at Fort Wayne, Indiana. He is a trustee of the association. Mr. Hilty is a fine type of Christian gentleman. He has been a successful farmer and is held in high esteem by all with whom he has been brought into contact in any way. He is a man, therefore, who is entitled to representation in this volume.

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#### REV. ALBERT SCHUMACHER.

There is no earthly station higher than the ministry of the Gospel, and no life can be more uplifting and grander than that which is devoted to the betterment of the human race, a life of sacrifice for the improvement of the brotherhood of man, one who is willing to cast aside all earthly crowns and laurels of fame, in order to follow in the footsteps of the lowly Nazarene. It is not possible to measure adequately the height, depth and breadth of such a life. Their influence continues to permeate the lives of others through succeeding generations; the ultimate influence cannot be known until the last great day when the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible. One of the self-sacrificing, ardent and true spirits that has been



a blessing to his community and who is now the pastor of the Grace Mennonite church at Pandora, is Albert Schumacher. He is a young man who has been splendidly trained for the ministry and whose life forcibly illustrates what energy, integrity and fixed purpose can accomplish when animated by noble aims and correct ideals.

Albert Schumacher was born on September 25, 1883, in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio, the son of Christian P. and Regina (Steiner) Schumacher, the former of whom was born on April 20, 1848, in Richland township, Allen county. He was the son of Peter and Magdalene (Suter) Schumacher. Peter Schumacher was born in Basel, Switzerland, in 1817, and was the son of Christian Schumacher and wife. Christian Schumacher, Sr., was a native of Florimont, France, and was a miller by trade. He operated a mill at Basil, owned by a firm by the name of Forkhart, Wise & Sons. The mill was located in the basement of the house in which Christian Schumacher lived and was run by water from the Rhine river. Christian Schumacher, Sr., was in the employ of the above-named concern for about eighteen or nineteen years. This firm was among the wealthiest in Basel. Christian Schumacher, Sr., was a trusted employe and a highly respected citizen. On leaving Switzerland he advertised his departure and welcomed all whom he might owe to present their bills for payment. He came to America with his son, Peter, the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, and spent his declining years with him. Peter was a minister in the Mennonite church and also a teacher in the schools of Ohio. He was a notary public and much sought for the drawing of legal papers. Peter came to America at the age of eighteen, in 1835. An extensive account of the history of the Schumacher family is to be found in the sketch of Christian Schumacher, contained elsewhere in this volume.

Albert Schumacher spent his boyhood days on the old homestead farm in Richland township, Allen county. He received his early education in the district school and assisted his father on the home farm. He then spent one year in the high school at Bluffton and finished his academic studies at Bluffton College, graduating from the academic department in 1904. After this he took two years more in the classical course, graduating from the Junior College in 1906. In that year he entered Oberlin College, where he completed his classical college-course in 1908. After that he took a three-year theological course at Oberlin College and graduated from this department in 1911. After completing his college work, Mr. Schumacher went abroad, visiting Gibraltar, Algiers, Africa, Italy, Southern Tyrol, Alsace-Lorraine, Switzerland, France, the Rhine valley, Belgium, London, Strat-

ford-on-Avon and Southampton. Two years later, on his return from abroad, he was married to Elizabeth Weida, of Caledonia, Minnesota. This marriage took place on October 16, 1913. Mrs. Schumacher graduated with the class of 1911 from the Conservatory of Music at Oberlin, Ohio, specializing in voice and piano. Mrs. Schumacher is the daughter of Owen J. and Jennie (Sweet) Weida, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ontario, Canada.

In the fall of 1911 Mr. Schumacher accepted the pastorate of the Grace Mennonite church at Pandora. He is a charter member of that church, which was organized in 1904, and it was considered fitting that at the completion of his education he should be called to preside over the same church. Under his leadership the membership has increased from two hundred and twenty to three hundred and thirty, and the Sunday school now numbers three hundred and fifty.

No young man in Putnam county is more earnest in his life's vocation, or more serious in his life's purposes, than the Rev. Albert Schumacher. He has worked hard to equip himself for this vocation and he is expected to have a brilliant career.

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#### SAMUEL P. KROHN.

The Union soldier, during the war between the states, builded wiser than he knew. Through four years of suffering and wasting hardship, through the horrors of prison and amid the shadows of death, he laid the superstructure of the greatest temple ever dedicated to human freedom. The world looked on and called those soldiers sublime, for it was theirs to reach out the mighty arm of power and strike the chains from off the slave, preserve the country from dissolution and the only flag that ever made tyrant tremble. For all the unmeasured deeds the living present will never repay them. Attention and political power may be thrown at their feet, art and sculpture may preserve upon canvas, granite and bronze their unselfish deeds, history may commit to books and cold facts may give to the future the tale of their sufferings and triumphs, but to the children of the generations yet unborn will it remain to record the full measure of appreciation and undying remembrance of the immortal character carved out by the American soldiers of the early sixties, numbered among whom was Samuel P. Krohn.

Samuel P. Krohn and George W. Krohn, brothers, enlisted in Com-

pany G, Twelfth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, the former on September 23, 1863. He served in the Army of the Cumberland, and saw service in Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and, finally, in Tennessee, again. He was in many hard-fought battles, his last active service being in a raid lasting about sixty days. This campaign was known as the last great "Stoneman Raid." Samuel P. Krohn was under General Stoneman, and his company, which was attached to the first brigade under Colonel Palmer, was exceedingly active. Mr. Krohn's brigade traveled hundreds of miles on this campaign. Gen. D. J. Cox, at Chicago, in 1868, referred to this final expedition in the following words:

"In March, 1865, General Stoneman made another important expedition out of east Tennessee into southwestern Virginia and the Carolinas, destroying the railroads by which escape from Richmond was possible for Lee's army and performed services which, but for the fact that it occurred during the general crush of the rebellion, would have attracted universal attention.

"A little later the same dashing horsemen had almost succeeded in capturing the person of Jefferson Davis, whose escort surrendered, but he himself, by changing his direction of flight toward the Atlantic coast, escaped for the moment, but only to fall into the hands of General Wilson and his gallant troopers."

Samuel P. Krohn was born on April 4, 1848, just west of Pendleton, now Pandora, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Samuel and Sarah (Weaver) Krohn. Samuel Krohn, Sr., was born on February 10, 1817, in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania. He was the son of George and Margaret (Fry) Krohn, the former a native of Pennsylvania, of German descent, who died in 1850, at Pendleton. His wife, Margaret Fry, before her marriage, also died at Pendleton, on January 25, 1871. Both of them passed the last days of their life at the home of Samuel Krohn, Sr.

George Krohn came to Ohio from Pennsylvania when Samuel Krohn, Sr., was a young man. He first located at Stratton, Delaware county, Ohio, where he operated a grist-mill. Later he moved to Butler county, where he was engaged in the milling business. He lived near Jacksonburg while a resident of Butler county. After a few years, in 1844, he came to Putnam county.

Samuel Krohn, Sr., was married in Butler county, Ohio, to Sarah Weaver, daughter of Henry and Margaret (Sarver) Weaver. Mrs. Sam-

uel Krohn, Sr., was born on September 17, 1820, and was married on November 11, 1841. At this time Samuel Krohn, Sr., was twenty-four years old. Henry Weaver was a pioneer of Butler county, Ohio, and a farmer. In early life he was a soldier in the War of 1812, and marched through western Ohio with the United States soldiers who were engaged in clearing the territory of the Indians. During this march he discovered the good land here, and later returned and entered land from the government just northwest of where Pandora now stands.

By his first marriage Samuel Krohn, Sr., was the father of eight children: George W. was born on September 13, 1842; Margaret, January 5, 1844; Henry, November 20, 1845; Samuel P is the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth, July 29, 1849; Martin, September 17, 1853; David, November 29, 1857, and died at the age of seven years, while Sarah A. was born on June 18, 1860. Samuel Krohn, Sr., was married the second time, on December 22, 1864, to the sister of his first wife, Madeline Weaver. She was born on July 3, 1837. By this second marriage one son, Edward, was born on December 3, 1868.

Samuel Krohn, Sr., was trustee of Riley township for four years and treasurer for six years. He was a man, therefore, of exceptional prominence in the community where he lived. When he first came to Putnam county, in 1844, he settled on the place of Henry Weaver, his father-in-law, which he had purchased a few months before. He lived on this farm until his death on April 6, 1886. He engaged in general farming and also owned and operated grist-mills, as well as saw-mills. At the time of his death he owned about two hundred and eighty acres of land. He was a Democrat in politics and a member of the German Lutheran church.

His son, Samuel P Krohn, the subject of this sketch, received his early education in the typical log cabin school, and helped his father on the farm. Samuel P., Jr., was only fifteen years old when he enlisted in the army of the Union to preserve the republic, but, despite his youth, he acquitted himself with exceptional credit in the service of his country. After the war he came home and remained with his parents, working on the old homestead farm. At the age of twenty-one Mr. Krohn was married to Lucy A. Day, the daughter of Dr. Hriam and Harriet (Pierce) Day. The marriage took place on December 23, 1869. After his marriage Mr. Kohn farmed his father's place for two years and then engaged in the mercantile business for twelve years, or until 1884, when he engaged in buying and selling live stock. He again entered the mercantile business in 1888 and operated a grocery store and hotel until 1900. In this year he sold out the grocery and

remained in the hotel business until 1902. He then re-engaged in the live stock business, to which he devoted all his attention, until 1911, when he turned the business over to his son, Reno A.

Mrs. Samuel P. Krohn's parents came to Putnam county in 1840. Her father was a native of Wayne county, Ohio, born on January 29, 1816; he died on April 23, 1890. Mrs. Krohn was born on August 17, 1849, at Pendleton. Her mother, Harriet (Pierce) Day, was born in Kent county, England, January 4, 1822. She was the daughter of William and Ruth (Stevenson) Pierce.

To Samuel P. and Lucy A. (Day) Krohn have been born four children: Mertie Estelle on September 27, 1870; Hiram Samuel, October 10, 1875; Reno Alvin, October 14, 1877; Harriett, March 29, 1881.

Samuel P. Krohn is a Democrat. He was elected township treasurer in 1870, and served continuously, with the exception of four years, until the present time. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity at Columbus Grove and of the Knights of Pythias No. 364, at Pandora. Mrs. Krohn is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Her husband also attends this church. Samuel P. Krohn is one of the best known and most universally respected men in this part of Putnam. He has represented his community in an official capacity for more than forty years, which speaks volumes for his reputation as a citizen and as a man. He has always led an active life, and is a clean-cut, progressive citizen, a man of high ideals and of unquestioned integrity. He is counted as one of Putnam county's most substantial citizens.

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#### MRS. LEAH BASINGER.

To the many sterling characteristics of the Swiss people, who played a prominent part, during its earlier days, in the settlement of this section, Putnam county, Ohio, owes much. Not only did the Swiss contribute many fine inhabitants to this county in years past, but today the descendants of those earlier citizens are carrying on the work of the county, maintaining the ideals of their forbears and upholding the county's standard of citizenship in every way. They represent the best blood of the county and are in every way a type of citizens of which Putnam county has ever reason to be proud. These ideals are exemplified by the subject of this sketch, whose fathers played important parts in the foundation of the country.

Mrs. Leah (Gratz) Basinger, the widow of Noah W. Basinger, was

born in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio, December 10, 1858, a daughter of Christian and Catherine (Steiner) Gratz. Christian Gratz was born in Wayne county, Ohio, on June 22, 1833, a son of Frederick and Anna (Lugibihl) Gratz.

Frederick Gratz was born in Basel, Switzerland, but all that is known of his early life is that he was an orphan and was reared in a children's home at Basel. While in the home, he learned several trades, and when he was a young man he came to America. He was three or four months in making the voyage to this country and, after his arrival, settled in Wayne county, Ohio, where he worked at these trades. He was a very ingenious man and was able to turn his hand to any work which demanded mechanical knowledge. By trade he was a carpenter and brick mason, and was also a tailor of no small ability.

After a sojourn of three years, in Wayne county, he moved to two miles east of Beaver Dam, Allen county, Ohio, where he located permanently. He first took a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, to which he gradually added, until his holdings eventually totaled about three hundred acres. It was to that farm that Leah Basinger's father, Christian, came with his parents when he was two years of age.

Frederick Gratz met the pioneer conditions with the courage and determination which have been characteristic of all pioneers of Swiss birth and ancestry. Out of the wilderness, a heavily-timbered country, he made his new home, and it was amid those surroundings that Christian Gratz spent his childhood and attended school in the typical log cabin school house. During the first few winters, Frederick Gratz taught the school. Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Gratz were the parents of four sons and four daughters, of which Christian was the eldest.

Christian Gratz grew to manhood on the old homestead and remained there until he was about twenty-three or twenty-four years of age. At that time, about 1856, he married Catherine Steiner, who was born in Richland township, Allen county, June 30, 1837, a daughter of Peter and Barbara (Schumacher) Steiner, both of whom were natives of Switzerland and who came to America immediately after their marriage. They settled in Richland township about two and one-half miles west of Bluffton, where Catherine Steiner was born, the eldest of a family of seven daughters and four sons.

After his marriage, Christian Gratz located one and one-half miles southwest of Bluffton, his farm comprising one hundred and sixty acres of land. It was there he reared his family of fifteen children, four of whom

died in infancy. Among the children were three sets of twins, one of each pair having died in infancy. The names of the twelve surviving children are: Samuel, Leah, Andrew, Elias, Louis, Marian, Lydia, Barbara, Peter, Fannie, Isaac and Lena.

It was on the old Steiner homestead that Leah Basinger spent her girlhood and attended the district school, which was first held in an old church and later in a brick school house. On May 9, 1881, at the age of twenty-two, she married Noah W. Basinger, her late husband, who was born on September 20, 1858, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, about three miles southwest of Pandora, and who died at Columbus Grove, September 23, 1903.

Noah W. Basinger was the son of Christian and Anna (Amstutz) Basinger. Christian Basinger was a native of Switzerland. His parents died while he was a child and he was reared by Leah's great-great-grandfather Steiner, who brought him to America when he was sixteen years of age. He grew to manhood in Wayne county, Ohio. Shortly after his marriage he moved to Riley township, Putnam county, where he bought the farm, which later became the property of Noah W. Basinger, his youngest son, and where Leah Basinger now makes her home.

Christian and Anna (Amstutz) Basinger were the parents of nine children, two of whom died in infancy. The surviving children are: Jonathan, John, Catherine, Stephen, David, Christian and Noah.

Noah Basinger was born and reared on the old homestead, three miles southwest of Pandora. There he attended the district school and early took up his life work as a farmer. He continued to operate the home farm, after his marriage; and until 1901, when he retired from farming and entered the coal business at Columbus Grove. That business he continued until the time of his death, September 23, 1903.

Noah Basinger was a supporter of the Democratic party, but never took an active interest in political matters. He was a successful farmer and made a specialty of stock feeding. He was a member of the Ebenezer Mennonite church, of which his wife was also a member. She later joined the Grace church. Noah Basinger was a well-known and popular citizen, always interested in local affairs and ready to support any movement which seemed for the betterment of the community. He was a good Christian, and a man of high ideals and unquestioned integrity.

To Noah and Leah (Gratz) Basinger were born eight children: Tilman was born on April 25, 1883. He married Lena Stouffer and made his home at Columbus Grove. To them have been born three children, Alice Rexine, Sarah Medway and Janice Hildreth; Sophia, November 2, 1885, and is

the wife of Charles Eversole. They are the parents of three children, Adrian Eugene, Ethel Elnora and Ray Olan, who died in infancy; Orville, July 7, 1887, died March 27, 1891; Denis, October 7, 1889, died on October 19, 1891, at the age of two years; Della, July 12, 1891, died on April 30, 1893; Hiram, September 1, 1893, and Luella and Llewellyn, twins, March 9, 1897.

Leah Basinger is a prominent member of her community, being closely identified with church work and with many local matters. She is held in high respect and esteem by all her neighbors and has a large circle of friends.

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#### LOUIS HERMILLER.

The farm is the granary for the office, the store and the shop. It is the farm which must feed and clothe that section of the population which produces no food and no raw material for clothing. Prices of food and clothing have experienced an upward trend for several years and are becoming next to prohibitive for great sections of the population. The conclusion is obvious that the production must be increased if the non-producers of food are to be fed. It is very generally agreed that there is not enough food to go around, that a shortage of supply has enhanced the prices for all classes. This condition has made farming very profitable. Within recent years the young farmers have been able to make a substantial profit out of their business, and one of the prosperous young farmers of Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, is Louis Hermiller, who has devoted himself assiduously to his chosen vocation.

Louis Hermiller was born on April 29, 1888, in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, three and one-half miles from Glandorf. He is the son of William and Philomena (Recker) Hermiller.

William Hermiller was born in Ottawa township, in January, 1858, and died on November 24, 1910. He was reared as a farmer and received his education in the Ottawa township schools. He remained on his father's farm until his marriage to Philomena Recker, and after his marriage moved to Union township, where he had purchased an eighty-acre farm. Subsequently, he added to this farm until he had more than four hundred acres at the time of his death. He was a very industrious man and his success was due to his untiring industry and splendid knowledge of farming, as well as to his business ability. He cleared the land and remained on the farm until his death. Mrs. Philomena (Recker) Hermiller was also a native





MR. AND MRS. LOUIS HERMILLER.



of Ottawa township. She was a daughter of Henry Recker, who was a native of Germany and who came to America and settled in Ottawa township, Putnam county, in pioneer times. They underwent the privations and hardships common to their day and generation. At that time much wild game abounded and the land was heavily timbered. There were no roads and few settlers.

To William and Philomena (Recker) Hermiller the following children were born: Benjamin, Louis, Frederick, William, Herman, Mary, John and Bernadina. Of these William, Herman, Mary, John and Bernadina live with their mother in the home place in Union township. Benjamin married Elizabeth Verhoff. He is a farmer in Union township and they have one child, Marcella. Fred married Amalia Hanneman, and they live in Greensburg township. The mother of these children lives on the old homestead in Union township with her unmarried children. She assisted materially in the success of her husband and is highly respected by the people of this community.

Louis Hermiller was educated in the Union township schools and was reared on his father's farm, where he passed his early life like the average farmer's son. Mr. Hermiller was married on April 17, 1912, to Mary Hanneman, who was born in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, and who is the daughter of Barney and Anna (Rolfes) Hanneman.

Barney Hanneman was born in Glandorf, Germany. He came to America at the age of eighteen with a colony of Germans and settled in Ottawa township, Putnam county. He helped develop this township, clearing the land of the heavy timber, and was prominent in the affairs of this community throughout his life. After his marriage, he bought a farm in Union township, of forty acres, which he developed. To this he, subsequently, added a hundred and fifty-five acres, making a total of a hundred and ninety-five acres. He still lives on the farm in Union township. Mrs. Barney Hanneman, his wife, was born in Glandorf, Germany, and came to America alone, when twenty-two years of age. She was educated in her native land and, after her arrival in America, came to Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, which was a German settlement, and which had been settled by natives of Glandorf, Germany, where she had been born. She is still living on the farm in Union township. She and her husband are members of the Catholic church at Glandorf, where she reared a family of six children, as follow: Mrs. Henry Jerwers, of Union township; Mrs. Fred Hermiller, who lives in Greensburg township; Clementine and Joseph who live at home. Mr. and

Mrs. Hanneman have reared a highly respected family and one of which they have good reason to be proud.

After his marriage, Louis Hermiller came to his present farm of eighty acres, in section 36, of Palmer township. He worked hard and, eventually, converted this farm into a paying proposition. He built most of the buildings and made many other improvements. Mr. Hermiller had a hard time, at first, but by unceasing industry he has succeeded and made out of his farm one of the best in this section of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Hermiller have one child, Frances, born April 25, 1913.

Mr. Hermiller has a barn equipped with all the modern conveniences. He has erected a specially-built farm power-house. It is equipped with a gasoline engine and has line shafting which operates the feed cutter, washing machine, milk separator, apple press, seed separator and many other labor-saving devices. Mr. Hermiller also has his own forge and machine shop.

Louis Hermiller is a Democrat. He and his family are members of St. Nicholas Catholic church, at Miller City, Ohio. He is a successful farmer, progressive in all his ideas, not in reference to farming, but with reference to civic, political and social life. He is pleasant and agreeable in manner, and is well read and well informed.

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### JOHN A. MYERS.

There came to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1883 a young couple who had just been married. They bought a farm in Van Buren township and there started to make their home. They had a small, two-roomed log cabin, and in this they lived until such a time as they were able to provide for themselves a more comfortable home. Today, John A. Myers is one of the substantial farmers of his township, and the success which has come to him and his good wife bears ample witness to the fact that they have worked faithfully and well to provide for themselves and their children.

John A. Myers, the son of David and Mary E. (Fraker) Myers, was born on May 6, 1861, in Franklin county, Ohio. His father, who was the son of Chris Myers, was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, and came to Franklin county, Ohio, where he bought a farm near Reynoldsburg. He made two trips from Pennsylvania to Franklin county, Ohio, before he finally located in the latter county, bringing his wife and one child with him on his second trip.

David Myers was a shoemaker by trade and worked at this when he was not engaged in farming. He remained on this farm only a few years and then removed west of Columbus, where he bought another farm, on which he lived until his death, on April 23, 1887. His wife, Mary Fraker, was also a native of Franklin county, Pennsylvania. David and Mary (Fraker) Myers were the parents of eight children: Margaret, deceased; John A., of Van Buren township; David W., of Hillard, Ohio, who married Anna Burket, and has three children, Hazel, Flossie and Norman, the latter of whom died at the age of nineteen; Ezra, who married Carrie Rodgers, and has three children, Perry, Flora and George; Eva, who married Charles Glasier, a farmer of this county, and has four children, Ethel, Lester, Garnet and Ivalu; Katherine and Theney both died in infancy, and Benjamin F., who married Annie Miller, and has two children, Earl and Elizabeth.

John A. Myers was reared in Franklin county, Ohio, and lived there until he was married at the age of twenty-two. He received a good common school education and remained at home, assisting his father on the farm until that year. Immediately after his marriage he and his young bride set out for their new home in Putnam county, where they purchased a farm just east of Belmore on the old Defiance road. Their assets consisted of their good health and a strong ambition to succeed. The little log cabin in which they started to housekeeping is still standing. It was here that they saw their early struggles and here it was that most of their children were born. They worked with a determination to improve their farm and they have succeeded to an admirable degree. Mr. Myers has been especially successful in raising stock and has given particular attention to hog raising. He is free to give much credit to his excellent wife for much of the success which has attended his efforts.

John A. Myers was married on October 11, 1883, to Caroline E. Smith, a daughter of Peter and Margaret (Fedders) Smith. Her father was a native of Germany and came to America, at the age of four, with his parents and located in Franklin county, Ohio. Margaret Fedders was a native of New York state and came to Franklin county, Ohio, with her parents when she was a child. John A. and Caroline E. (Smith) Myers are the parents of eleven children, Elizabeth Jane, David Elmer, Lulu May, Mabel, John E., Garnet William, George A., Eva Marie, Zula Pearl, Gladys Fay and Blanche Margaret. Three of these children are deceased: Mabel, who died at the age of nineteen; Eva Marie, who died at the age of two years, seven months and twenty-nine days, and Zula Pearl, who died at the age of fourteen. David Elmer, a farmer of this county, married Eva Rader, and has two

children, Harold and Glenn; Zula May married Harry Todd, a farmer of this county, and has two daughters, Agnes and Lucile. The other children are still single and living at home.

John A. Myers is a Democrat in politics, but has never cared to take an active part in political work. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Belmore, and his two sons, John and Garnet, are also members of the same lodge. Although not a member of any church, Mr. Myers is an attendant of the Presbyterian church, of which denomination his wife is a member. Mr. Myers is a man of energy and industry, and he and his family are highly esteemed in the community where they reside.

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#### ALPHA H. BARBER, D. D. S.

A successful member of the dental profession who is now residing at Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio, is Alpha H. Barber, D. D. S., who has been a resident of this county for the past seven years. Receiving a good common and high school education, he taught school for a time and then graduated from an excellent dental school, since which time he has been following his profession. Since becoming a resident of Leipsic, he has taken an active part in the life of the community and has taken a deep interest in religious, educational and fraternal affairs.

Alpha H. Barber, who is the son of Hiram S. and Charlotte (Shoop) Barber, was born at Swanton, Fulton county, Ohio, May 25, 1875. His father was also a native of Fulton county, his birth occurring there about 1841, his mother being born in Erie county, Ohio, January 9, 1845. Hiram S. Barber and wife were the parents of four children: Rose, who died at the age of fifteen; Mary, the wife of George Murphy, of Antwerp, and the mother of two children, Claren and Jennie; Lottie, the wife of William Tehan, of Toledo, Ohio, and the mother of two children, Alpha F. and Pauline, and Dr. Alpha H., of Leipsic.

Hiram S. Barber grew to manhood on the same farm, in Fulton county, where he was born. He enlisted for services in the Union army by becoming a member of the Fifty-fifth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served during practically the entire struggle. His regiment was with General Sherman on his famous march through Georgia, and he participated in all the hard-fought engagements in that state. He also fought in Virginia. His health was seriously impaired while he was in the war and he returned,

a few months before it ended, and died shortly afterward, from disease contracted while in the service. Hiram S. Barber and Charlotte Schoop lived in Swanton for about fifteen years, and then moved to Paulding, Paulding county, Ohio, where the mother is now living.

Alpha A. Barber lived in Swanton until he was about five years of age, and then the family moved to Antwerp, in Paulding county. He graduated from the common and high schools at Antwerp, and immediately after finishing the course in the high school began to teach in the public schools of that county. After teaching two years he became a student in the Ohio Dental College, at Cincinnati, and took a complete three-years course in that excellent institution. Immediately after his graduation, he located at Deshler, Henry county, Ohio, for the practice of his profession and remained there for eight years. He then removed to Leipsic, where he has since been practicing with a success which speaks well for his ability as a skillful dentist.

Doctor Barber was married on May 9, 1904, to Vesta Cunningham, the daughter of Robert and Mary (Hipkins) Cunningham, and to this union one son has been born, Robert, who is now eight years of age. Robert and Mary (Hipkins) Cunningham were the parents of three children, Vesta, Doane and Edward.

Doctor Barber is president of the board of education of Leipsic and actively interested in education matters. He and his family are loyal members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is a member of the official board of his denomination. He is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and is worshipful master of his lodge. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen, and is clerk of the lodge at Leipsic.

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#### NOAH SCHUMACHER.

Success is the result of many factors which are not likely to appear in a bare statement of facts concerning a man's life. Success, however, is by no means a matter of accident. On the contrary, it is the result of careful, painstaking, diligent attention to business. Imagination, perhaps, is more vital to success than industry or even economy in personal and private life. Good judgment is merely one phase of a healthy, active imagination. Noah Schumacher is possessed of all these qualities and, moreover, has won the reputation for strict honesty and square dealing, no small factors in his personal success. Everything he has touched has turned out well, because he

reasoned well regarding the future. Now, although he has hardly arrived at the prime of life, he is able to look back upon his career with keen satisfaction, for he is a man who has made each moment count for something.

Noah Schumacher was born on August 14, 1877, in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio, the son of Christian P. and Regina (Steiner) Schumacher. Christian P. Schumacher was also born in Richland township, Allen county, April 20, 1848, the son of Peter and Magdalene (Suter) Schumacher. Peter Schumacher was a native of Basel, Switzerland, who came to America about 1835, and who settled in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio, where he entered land from the government. Peter Schumacher and wife were the parents of sixteen children, all of whom grew to maturity and, in turn, reared large families. Their names are: Christian, Adam, David, Daniel, John, Benjamin, Peter, Magdalene, Barbara, Elizabeth, Mary, Fannie, Catherine, Susan and Sarah, twins, and Lydia.

Peter Schumacher lived on the old homestead in Richland township, Allen county, until his death. In addition to being a farmer, he was a minister of the Mennonite church; Christian, the eldest son, was reared on the old homestead and, when twenty-two years old, was married to Regina Steiner, the daughter of Benjamin and Mary Ann (Moser) Steiner. Her parents were also pioneers. After his marriage, Christian Schumacher located on part of his father's land and here he lived until 1908, when he sold this place and purchased a farm adjoining Pandora, on the north, where he now lives in retirement. Christian Schumacher and wife have had fourteen children: Samuel, of Arizona; Helena, the wife of Daniel Diller, also resides in Arizona; Menno, who married Lena Diller; Noah, the subject of this sketch; Reuben, who lives in Putnam county; Sarah, who resides in Arizona; Albert, who married Sarah Weida; Cyrus, who married Olivia Hilty; Franklin and William, twins, who died in infancy; Hiram, who lives at Napoleon, Ohio; Orlin, Salena and Oliver, all of whom are single and at home.

Noah Schumacher spent his boyhood days in Richland township, on the old homestead, and attended the common schools, and later, the Ohio Normal University at Ada. After finishing school, he took a position with Hipkins Brothers of Ottawa and, in the late fall of 1897, purchased an interest in the firm of P. A. Amstutz & Company. This connection he retained until 1903, when the firm changed to the Pandora Dry Goods and Clothing Company. At this time he became manager, and still holds this position. Under his direction the firm has enjoyed a very healthy growth, until today it is one of the leading stores in Pandora. In addition to his interests in this mercantile business, he has other financial and commercial interests.



On August 19, 1902, at the age of twenty-five, Mr. Schumacher was married to Mary Kempf, the daughter of Rudolph and Anna (Wehrley) Kempf, of Pandora. The former is a native of Switzerland and the latter of Riley township, Putnam county. To this happy union have been born three boys, Glenn Frederick, Earl Franklin and Wayne Richard.

Noah Schumacher is a member of the Missionary Church Association, of which association he is also treasurer. The headquarters of the church is at Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Noah Schumacher is a deacon in the local church. He is a clean-cut, young business man and one who enjoys, to the utmost, the confidence of the citizens of his community. He is modest, intelligent and honest, a devout Christian and, in fact, one of the finest types of manhood to be found anywhere in Putnam county.

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#### JOHN D. BRIDENBAUGH.

John D. Bridenbaugh is one of the most enterprising farmers of Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is a man, who, by correct methods and a strict regard for the interest of others, has made his influence felt in Riley township. He is one of those men whose integrity and strength of character must bring them into admirable notice, yet a notice which their modesty never seeks. John D. Bridenbaugh is a man who has lived an honorable and useful life. He is one of those individuals to be found in nearly every community, who, by reason of ability and force of character, rise above the heads of the masses and command the highest esteem of their fellow men.

John D. Bridenbaugh, a successful farmer of Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio, was born there on August 2, 1862. He is the son of Michael and Jemimah (Graham) Bridenbaugh, the former of whom was born on December 15, 1820, in Summit county, Ohio. Michael Bridenbaugh's parents were natives of Pennsylvania and his grandparents of Germany. Both the paternal and maternal grandfathers of Michael Bridenbaugh were soldiers in the Revolutionary War, two of his brothers, William and David, were in the Civil War, the former of whom was killed, and another in the Mexican War.

Michael Bridenbaugh came from Summit county, Ohio, to Putnam county, in 1835, settling in Blanchard township. It seems that Michael's father settled in Hancock county, west of Findlay, where he entered land from the government. Michael was one of a large family, consisting of about fourteen children, ten of whom lived to maturity. Michael was next

to the eldest and, at the age of fifteen, he began to shift for himself. He came to Blanchard township and worked for several of the old pioneer farmers. He was married, first to Nancy Evans on November 5, 1854. She lived only a short time after their marriage and, at her death, left one son, Nathan Emery, who was born on August 14, 1855, and died at the age of eight years, July 30, 1863. Nancy Evans was born on August 4, 1828. Michael Bridenbaugh was married again, shortly afterward, on February 5, 1857, to Jemimah Graham, who was born in Big Lick township, Hancock county, Ohio, and who was the daughter of John and Sarah (Thomas) Graham. John Graham was a pioneer of Hancock county, who entered one hundred and sixty acres of land in Big Lick township, about 1832. He and his wife were natives of Kentucky and had three sons and two daughters: George W.; Jemimah; Monroe; Thomas, who was killed in the Civil War, and Mary, all of whom are now deceased. After his second marriage, Michael Bridenbaugh settled on the banks of Riley creek, in the northwestern part of Riley township, where he purchased about one hundred and sixty acres of land. He later added to this farm, until he owned two hundred and seventy acres when he died. None of the land was cleared when he acquired possession of it. He first built a small one-story frame house and a log barn. This little house was replaced, in 1877, by a more commodious brick residence, in which John D. Bridenbaugh lives today. Michael Bridenbaugh also built barns and other outbuildings in keeping with the brick house. He was a breeder of Belgian horses and was very successful with them. He was a Democrat and has served as county commissioner for two terms, or in all, six years, and was also trustee of Riley township for six years, was also a member of the school board for several years and held other honorary positions and was a member of the United Brethren church, as was also his wife. By his second marriage, there were three children, Sarah A., born on January 31, 1858, died on August 16, 1863; John D., the subject of this sketch; and Emma E., March 16, 1867, who is the deceased wife of A. M. Emmons. She had five children, Carrie, Gertrude, Earl, Jemimah and Laurel, deceased. The mother of these children died on September 12, 1903. Michael Bridenbaugh was a typical pioneer who started with nothing and who, by great industry, established a home and built up a comfortable fortune in what was once a wilderness. He was a man of strong convictions, high ideals and unquestioned integrity, as are evident by the number of offices conferred upon him by his fellow citizens.

John D. Bridenbaugh was born on the old homestead and spent his childhood here. He attended the district schools and after finishing his studies there helped his father on the home place, until his parent's death,

May 25, 1895, at which time he assumed charge of his portion of the home place.

On September 20, 1898, John D. Bridenbaugh was married to Ella Diller, who was born on May 29, 1873, in Riley township. She was the daughter of John D. and Fanny (Wearley) Diller, both of whom came from pioneer stock. John D. Diller's father was a native of Switzerland and came to Putnam county at an early day.

After his marriage, Mr. Bridenbaugh continued to farm the old place on which he has been very successful. He now owns two hundred acres of land and has always done general farming, feeding cattle and hogs for the market.

John D. and Ella (Diller) Bridenbaugh have five children, Ralph J., born on June 20, 1899; Clark G., July 4, 1901; Arthur J., June 28, 1903; Err S., November 28, 1905, and Warren R., November, 1909, all of whom are at home.

John D. Bridenbaugh is a Democrat and has been a member of the school board for several years. Mr. Bridenbaugh is an attendant of the Methodist Episcopal church, where his wife is a member. He is a progressive farmer and one of the substantial citizens of Putnam county.

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#### EWING V. BURNS, D. D. S.

A promising young dentist of Leipsic, Ohio, is Ewing V. Burns, D. D. S., who has been practicing his profession in that place since 1905. He comes from a prominent family of Troy, Ohio, where his father has been engaged in the practice of law since the close of the Civil War, in which struggle he was an honorable participant. Doctor Burns is a graduate of the high school at Troy and of the dental department of the University of Cincinnati, and, in addition, has taken special training in other dental schools. He is a young man of exceptional ability, and, since living in Leipsic, has taken a very prominent part in the civic life of that place, and is now serving in an efficient manner as mayor of the village.

Ewing V. Burns, who is the son of Charles N. and Eliza (Bailey) Burns, was born in Troy, Ohio, on January 21, 1882. He is one of two sons born to his parents, the other son being John C.

Charles N. Burns, the son of Robert and Eliza (Vance) Burns, was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, on October 21, 1839, on the site now occupied by the John Church Company, at the corner of Fourth and Plum streets. When

he was thirteen years of age, Charles N. Burns moved, with his mother, to Troy, Ohio, and there attended the common and high schools, graduating from the latter in three years. At the age of twenty-one he enlisted in an Ohio regiment and served until 1864, when he was honorably discharged on account of wounds received in the service. Among other leaders in that great conflict under whom he served were Generals Burnside and McClellan. He participated in the battles of Shiloh, Antietam, South Mountain and the second battle of Bull Run. After the close of the Civil War, he returned to his home in Troy, Ohio, and took up the study of law, and was admitted to the bar in a short time at Troy. He continued in the active practice of his profession until 1914, when he retired. Charles N. Burns was twice married, his second wife being Eliza Bailey, to whom he was married on October 1, 1873. She was born at Sidney, Ohio, on January 4, 1841, her ancestors being of English descent. The Bailey family of Ohio have traced their family record back to the landing of the "Mayflower," when a member of the family came to America. Eliza Bailey's father was born at Baltimore in 1799, while her mother, Lydia Day, was born at Frederick, Maryland, on December 28, 1806.

Ewing V. Burns was educated in the public schools of Troy, Ohio, and graduated from the high school. He took a prominent part in athletics while in high school, and was captain of the Troy football team in 1899. After leaving the high school he entered the Central Dental College at Indianapolis, Indiana, and remained there two years. He completed his dental course in the University of Cincinnati in the spring of 1903, and then took special work in Chicago, Pittsburgh and Cincinnati for the ensuing two years. He located at Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1905, where he has built up a large and lucrative practice in his chosen profession.

Ewing V. Burns, D. D. S., was married on August 11, 1909, to Bessie L. Davis, of Troy, Ohio, a daughter of J. O. Davis and wife, of that city. Doctor Burns is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons and the Royal Arch, of Ottawa, the commandery at Findlay and Zenobia Temple Mystic Shrine at Toledo. He is also a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Royal Arcanum. He gives his hearty support to the Republican party and has been one of the leaders of his party in Leipsic since becoming a resident of this place. A striking evidence of his popularity as a public-spirited citizen is shown by the fact that he was elected mayor of Leipsic in November, 1913, and is now performing the duties of this office in a very satisfactory manner. Doctor Burns is a young man with progressive ideas in regard to civic life and a man whose ideals are in accordance with the highest type of American citizenship.

## JOHN A. WALTERS.

The prosperity and substantial welfare of a community depend very largely upon the character and enterprise of its business men, as much on those of the younger and rising generation as on those who have already achieved success and reached the goal of their desires. It is the progressive, wide-awake men of affairs who make the real history of a county or state and upon them also rests the responsibility of giving moral tone to the body politic, of directing thought and shaping opinion, and of taking the lead in all progressive measures for the public good. To this class of strong, virile young men belongs John Walters, of Riley township, Putnam county, a young man of sterling character and sturdy worth.

John Walters was born on September 12, 1885, in Monroe township, Allen county, Ohio, a son of Jesse S. and Mary (Krass) Walters, the latter of whom was the daughter of Michael and Lyda Krass. Jesse Walters was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on February 15, 1839, and died at Bluffton, Ohio, June 24, 1914. He was a son of John Walters and wife, married first to Lila Ramsey, who died, after which he married Anna Moore.

Grandfather John Walters was a farmer and moved from Fairfield county, Ohio, to Hancock county, about 1849, when Jesse Walters was about ten years of age. There he bought a farm on the banks of the Blanchard river, between three and four miles west of Findlay, Ohio, and it was on that farm that Jesse Walters grew to manhood. John Walters was twice married, having had seven children by his first union, and three by his second. Jesse Walters was a son of the first marriage, his mother having died after he had himself married. John Walters died on July 15, 1864.

Jesse Walters attended a typical log-cabin school and helped his father on the old homestead. He was a great reader and improved his mind at every opportunity. After his marriage to Mary Krass he bought a little farm near the old homestead, where he and his wife lived for a few years, after which they moved to Monroe township, Allen county. It was on this farm that John Walters was born. There Jesse Walters bought a farm, which was nearly all timber, while a large portion of it was under water. Only sufficient land had been cleared for the erection of the house, a one-room affair, built of planks. This served the family for several years, after which a somewhat more pretentious house was built. It was in this second house that John Walters was born.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Jesse Walters enlisted in the Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, at the first call for volunteers. He

served throughout the entire war and, during his last years as a soldier was commander of his brigade. He participated in several of the most important engagements of the war, including Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and the march to the sea.

To Jesse and Mary (Krass) Walters four children were born, as follows: Emma, who is the wife of John Gillespie, of Kent, Ohio, and to whom has been born three children; Mable, deceased; Howard and Melvin; Harmon, who lives in Beaver Dam, Ohio, married Sarah Stager and has five children, Florence, Charles, Lillie, Elmer and John; Mary (Mollie) who is the wife of Brake Fruchey and lives near Rockport, Ohio, is the mother of three children, Wilbur, deceased; Mary; Lawrence; and John, the subject of this sketch.

Jesse Walters and wife were both members of the United Brethren church, in which denomination Jesse Walters was a preacher, attached to the church at Lewis Corners, Allen county, and to St. Paul's church, Riley township, Putnam county. He was a devout Christian and took part with Reverend Furgeson in several revival meetings. Mrs. Walters was likewise an active church worker and a beautiful Christian character.

When John Walters was about two years of age, his parents moved to near Rockport, Monroe township, a few miles from his birthplace. The family lived there for about twelve years, and it was there the subject spent his childhood and attended the old Rockport district school. From that place, the family moved to Pandora in the fall of 1899, where Jesse Walters lived a somewhat retired life until his death. It was there that Mrs. Walters died on September 20, 1910, at the age of sixty-one. In October, 1911, Jesse Walters married a second time, his second wife being Mrs. Kate Putnam. They lived in Pandora for one year, and then moved to Bluffton, where Mr. Walters died, two years later.

John Walters did not go to Pandora with his parents, but came to that place in the spring of 1900. During the next two years, he employed his time in doing odd jobs, and, at the age of sixteen, obtained a position with the Pandora Overall Company, with which concern he has been associated, continually, since that time, with the exception of one year. His first employment with that company was that of a button riveter, and from that position he has risen steadily through all the departments of the manufacturing end of the business. He is at present in charge of the cutting department, a position which he has held for nine years.

On December 27, 1906, when John Walters was twenty-one years of age, he married Elizabeth Agner, who was born near Ottawa, Putnam county,

on October 1, 1880, a daughter of William and Hattie Agner. To this union have been born two children, Leonard and Raymond. Mrs. Walters spent her childhood with her parents, near Ottawa, where she attended both the common and high schools. She remained with her mother until the time of her marriage, her father having died several years previous to that time.

John Walters is a supporter of the Republican party and has always taken an intelligent interest in the political affairs of his community, although he has never aspired to public office. Mrs. Walters is a member of the Church of Christ, in which she is an active worker. Mr. Walters is one of the clean-cut and progressive citizens of Pandora, a man of excellent character, high ideals and unquestioned integrity. In business, his qualifications are best expressed by the appellation "live wire," so often used as the highest form of compliment in these days of hustle.

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#### HOWARD HUMPHREYS.

There is no profession which is more closely interwoven with the intimate things of humanity or in which a follower must possess more of the milk of human kindness than in that of the undertaker. He is called into a house of mourning at a time when the inmates are bowed down by the first throes of their grief, when their thoughts cannot be centered upon the next steps to be taken and when, above all other times, they need the presence of a helping hand to which they can, with implicit confidence, entrust the cares and duties the occasion requires. At such times the undertaker enters the family circle, coming not in the guise of one who is to remove from it a beloved member, but rather as a true friend to whom may be trusted the care of the earthly remains of one who, at that moment, is held more dear than ever before. He comes without ostentation and with words of sympathy and comfort ready on his lips; he practically assumes, for the time being, all the responsibilities of the bereaved family, and stands between its members and all jarring contact with the outside world. He is the friend in need and the trusted adviser, never conspicuous, but ever at hand to ward off from the grief-stricken family all outside influences which might threaten to profane these, the holiest moments of their lives. Small wonder it is that the men who perform such offices should be among the most beloved members of their communities, and it is with such a man that this sketch deals.

Howard Humphreys was born on January 28, 1862, in Allen county,

Ohio, a son of William J. and Margaret J. (Davis) Humphreys. William J. Humphreys was born in North Wales on August 27, 1828, and died in Marion township, Allen county, Ohio, November 18, 1888. He came to America with his parents when he was thirteen years of age, and settled in Cambria county, Pennsylvania, where his father spent the remainder of his life. William Humphreys remained with his parents until he reached his majority, then he came to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he worked for a short time.

In Cincinnati he met and married Margaret J. Davis, who was born in South Wales, April 7, 1832, a daughter of Jabez Davis and wife. She died on October 8, 1874. Mrs. Humphreys came to America with her parents about 1842, when she was ten years of age. The family settled in Jackson county, Ohio, where her father engaged in farming. There he lived and died at an advanced age, his wife having died several years previous to his death.

After his marriage, William Humphreys returned to Cambria county, Pennsylvania, where he remained for a few years, and then returned to Marion township, Allen county, Ohio. There he purchased eighty acres of land for himself and eighty acres for his father. Later, after his father's death, he purchased the latter's farm also. At the time of the original purchase of the farms the land was practically in a virgin state and Mr. Humphreys was obliged to expend much energy and hard labor in clearing it and preparing it for cultivation. The family lived in an old log house, which stood on the father's land, where seven of William Humphrey's ten children were born. The old log house was later replaced by a substantial frame structure, in which William Humphreys passed his declining years.

Ten children were born to William and Margaret J. (Davis) Humphreys, as follow: John W., who married Margarette Jane Evans, deceased, who had four children, one of which is deceased; Elizabeth, who is the wife of Noah E. Brenneman and the mother of four children, three of which are living; Harriett, who died at the age of twenty-eight; George W., who married Frances Ridenour and has two children; Howard, the subject of this sketch; Mary, who was taken to bring up by her father's sister, Ellen, of Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, and who died at the age of six years; David, who married Della Sherrick and has two children; William, who died at the age of twenty-two, and Emily, deceased, who was the wife of Daniel Huffer and who had one child, and Margaret, died in infancy.

Howard Humphreys remained on the homestead until he was twenty-eight years of age. He attended the schools of his township and assisted his father in the work of operating the farm. In November, 1888, when he was twenty-six years of age, he married Myrtle Babcock, a daughter of William



Babcock and wife. Her parents were natives of Crawford county, Ohio, and later settled in Putnam county. Mrs. Humphreys died on November 26, 1896. No children were born to that union.

Two years after his marriage, in 1890, Mr. Humphreys bought a farm in Washington township, Van Wert county, Ohio, where he remained four years. He then removed to Bluffton, Ohio, where he engaged in the livery business for two years. In the spring, after his wife's death, he moved to Columbus Grove, where he continued in the livery business for one year. He then purchased an interest in the furniture business of Hartman & Alstetter, buying Mr. Alstetter's interests, the firm being then known as Hartman & Humphreys. He retained his interest in that business for three years and then sold his share to Mr. Hartman. His next business enterprise was when he purchased the interest of J. M. Crawford in the Columbus Grove Lumber Company, with which he was identified during the next four and one-half years. Six months after selling his interest in the lumber company, he bought a half interest in the furniture and undertaking business of C. B. Sterling. That was in 1906, and Mr. Humphreys has been identified with that business up to the present time, having met with great success.

On October 9, 1899, he married a second time, his second wife being Emma R. Light, who was born in Putnam county, on August 13, 1873, a daughter of David and Rosanna Light. David Light was born on November 27, 1840, in Richland county, Ohio, a son of David and Barbara (Fackler) Light, who came from Lebanon county, Pennsylvania. Rosanna (Bricker) Light was born on March 7, 1842, a daughter of Levi and Catherine (Warner) Bricker, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Howard Humphreys was educated in the common schools of Putnam county and in the high school at Columbus Grove. She later attended Fostoria Academy, where she took a normal course. Three children have been born to Howard and Emma R. (Light) Humphreys, as follow: David Walter, William Howard and Norman Light, all of whom are living at home and are still attending school.

Howard Humphreys is a supporter of the Republican party and has taken an intelligent interest in the political affairs of his community, although he has never aspired to public office. He is a member of Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 376, of Columbus Grove, Ohio. Both Howard Humphreys and wife are members of the First Christian church and are active in church work, Mr. Humphreys having served the church as a trustee.

As a citizen, Mr. Humphreys ranks high in his community, where he is deeply respected by all who know him. He is a man of high ideals, strict business integrity and many sterling qualities.

## JOHN BARNEY VERHOFF.

It cannot be other than interesting to note, in the series of personal sketches appearing in this work, the varying conditions that have compassed those whose careers are here outlined. An effort has been made in each case to throw a well-focused light on the individuality and to bring into proper perspective the scheme of each career. Each man who strives to fulfill his part, in connection with human life and human activities, deserves recognition, whatever his field of endeavor. And it is the function of works of this nature to perpetuate for future generations an authentic record concerning those represented in its pages. The value of such publications is certain to be cumulative for all time, and will present for posterity the individual and specific accomplishment of each generation.

John Barney Verhoff, a well-known farmer in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, was born on his father's farm, April 15, 1875. He is the son of Theodore and Elizabeth (Egbers) Verhoff, the former of whom was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, June 17, 1838, and the latter of whom was a daughter of Theodore Egbers, and a native of Germany. Theodore Verhoff and Elizabeth Egbers were married on June 18, 1861, and had twelve children. Theodore Verhoff was the son of Francis and Mary (Kramer) Verhoff, the former of whose parents lived and died in Germany, and the latter of whom was the daughter of Theodore and Gertrude (Veraking) Kramer.

John Barney Verhoff attended school in Greensburg township, and worked on his father's farm. He performed the usual labor which falls to the average country boy, and was industrious from the time of his youth.

Mr. Verhoff was married on November 3, 1903, to Mary Lemper, who was born on September 5, 1872, and who is the daughter of William and Clara (Drop) Lampert, natives of Germany, where they were married. The children of William and Clara (Drop) Lemper were as follow: Mary, the wife of J. B. Verhoff; William, Clara, and Agnes. William married Lena Wortmann, and lives in Michigan. They have six children; Clara married William Edelbrock, and lives in Union township; Agnes married William Verhoff, and lives near Owosso, Michigan. They have seven children.

After his marriage, John Barney Verhoff moved to his present farm of eighty acres, in Greensburg township. Mr. Verhoff owns this farm, upon which he has erected some fine buildings, and made many substantial and



MR. AND MRS. JOHN BARNEY VERHOFF.



attractive improvements. Mr. and Mrs. Verhoff have two children, Margaret, born on December 19, 1907, and Mary, born on August 10, 1910.

John Barney Verhoff believes in having good horses and live stock. He owns some splendid Belgian horses and is also contemplating getting into the full-blood cattle-raising business, at this time having some splendid Shorthorn cattle on his place. Taken all in all, his live stock may be counted as first-class in every respect. He has a fine substantial barn on his place. He is very industrious and a hard-worker, which indicates a successful future. He has well-grounded opinions on topics of the day, is devoted to his wife and family and they, with their children, form a very happy circle.

John Barney Verhoff makes a specialty of chickens and thoroughbred Duroc-Jersey hogs. He is township health officer of Greensburg township, and in politics is a stanch Democrat. He is a sturdy type of the young German farmer, ambitious and acquainted with all the problems touching not only his vocation, but the political affairs of his state and the country at large. Temperamentally, Mr. Verhoff is pleasant and agreeable. He is popular in the township where he lives, and is a man who has never been known to violate a spoken or written promise. Mr. and Mrs. Verhoff and family belong to the St. Nicholas Catholic church, at Kalida. His wife has co-operated faithfully with Mr. Verhoff to his ultimate success. They have a charming family.

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### CHRISTIAN SCHUMACHER, JR.

Among the worthy residents of Putnam county, Ohio, whose presence has been an important factor in the development of this great county, is Christian Schumacher, Jr. Mr. Schumacher's success has been due in a large degree to his prodigious industry, good management and upright character. The business of farming demands confidence, and where that is lacking, business is liable to end. Christian Schumacher has always possessed the confidence of his neighbors and the men with whom he has had business relations. His immediate associates and acquaintances respect him, and the younger generation has taken his life as an example for their careers. He not only is a progressive man of affairs and successful in material pursuits, but is a man of modest and unassuming demeanor, well informed and a fine type of a self-made American, a friend to the poor, charitable to the faults of his neighbors and always ready to unite with every good work.

Mr. Schumacher is proud of the county where he has spent so many years, and to which he has given a full measure of his life's energy.

Christian Schumacher was born on April 20, 1848, in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio. He is the son of Peter and Elizabeth (Suter) Schumacher, the former of whom was born in 1819, at Basel, Switzerland, Christian Schumacher, Sr., and Elizabeth (Lugibihl) Schumacher were the parents of Peter Schumacher.

Christian Schumacher, Jr., lived on the old homestead farm, in Putnam county, until he was twenty-one years of age. Prior to attaining his majority, he attended the typical log cabin school until he was fourteen years of age. When about eighteen years of age, he learned the carpenter trade, and, at the age of twenty-one, left home and followed his trade for one year.

When Mr. Schumacher was twenty-two years old, he was married to Regina Steiner, the daughter of Ulrich and Mary Ann (Moser) Steiner. Ulrich Steiner was a native of Alsace, France, and the son of Christian and Catherine (Lugibihl) Steiner. His wife, who was Mary Ann Moser, was the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Wolley) Moser, all of whom were natives of Switzerland. Christian Steiner came to America in 1835, and was one of the founders of the Mennonite church in Putnam county. His son, Ulrich, became the first bishop of the church. Jacob Moser and family came to America in the early part of the nineteenth century, settling first in Virginia. Later, they came to Wayne county, Ohio, near Dalton.

After his marriage, Mr. Schumacher located on a farm four miles west of Bluffton, in Allen county, where he remained for thirty-five years. He then moved to a farm adjoining Pandora on the north. This farm, to which he moved after his marriage, had eighty acres which he rented for five years, when he purchased it. Later, he purchased twenty-nine acres more, giving him in all one hundred and nine acres. He sold this farm in 1907 and moved to the farm where he now lives. This farm he purchased, two years later, and in 1908, he bought the Deiter farm in the southeast part of Riley township, which consists of eighty acres. In January, 1915, Mr. Schumacher purchased forty-five acres lying east of the present home farm, giving him eighty-five acres in this farm. He has always done general farming and has been quite successful. He and his wife have been hard workers all their lives and have earned an honorable competence.

Christian and Regina (Steiner) Schumacher have been the parents of fourteen children, Samuel is unmarried and lives in Arizona; Helena is the wife of Daniel Diller, and lives in Phoenix, Arizona, where they have children as follow: Oliver, Edith, Herbert, Eunice, Catherine, Rhoda, Goldie,

Lillian, Glenn, Robert, who died at the age of three, and a baby who died in infancy; Menno married Lena Diller, and lives in Riley township, where they have two children, Arthur and Edgar; Noah lives in Pandora, where he married Mary Kempf and they have three children, Glenn, Earl and Wayne; Reuben is unmarried and lives in Riley township; Sarah is unmarried and lives at home; Albert married Sarah Weida and lives in Pandora; Cyrus married Olivia Hilty, they have one child, Paul; Franklin and William, twins, died in infancy; Orlin is unmarried and at home; Hirham lives at Napoleon; Salina and Oliver also live at home.

Reverting to Mr. Schumacher's ancestors: Christian Schumacher, Sr., his grandfather, was born in Alsace-Lorraine at the town of Florimont, in 1789, and came to America in 1836, with his wife and four children, Barbara, John, Peter and Christian. Christian Schumacher, Sr., operated a gristmill at Basel, Switzerland, and was also a wine merchant in Alsace-Lorraine. He did a wholesale, or brokerage, business in wine. He had a little farm of sixteen acres, just outside of Basel, which he sold to wealthy land owners there, on coming to America. Christian Schumacher and wife were thirty-six days on the water on their voyage to America, and a week in coming from New York City to Wayne county, Ohio. Part of the trip was made by canal boat. They remained in Wayne county, Ohio, about two weeks, visiting relatives, and then proceeded to Richland township, Allen county, formed a part of Putnam county, and here settled on a farm of two hundred and thirteen acres, three and one-half miles north of Shannon, later Bluffton, which he purchased of a man by the name of Gray. He later bought another farm of about two hundred acres southeast of the old homestead, from a man by the name of Sackett. In addition to this land, he entered other land from the government and had in all about nine hundred acres.

Christian Schumacher, Sr., was considered pretty well-to-do when he settled in the new country. He first lived in a log cabin, however, which was on the place, but soon afterward built a pretentious house of eight rooms after the colonial style. This house is still standing and is in a good state of preservation.

One of Christian Schumacher, Sr's, daughters, Barbara, was married to Peter Steiner before coming to America, he coming with the rest of the family.

Peter Schumacher, the father of Christian, Jr., was sixteen years old when he came with his parents to America. It was on the old homestead that he grew to manhood, where he was married, at about the age of twenty-one, to Elizabeth Suter, the daughter of Christian and Magdalene (Steiner)

Suter, who was born on December 6, 1821, and who died on October 12, 1897. The Suters came originally from Berne, Switzerland. From there they moved to Alsace-Lorraine and it was there that Elizabeth Suter was born. The family first settled in Rockingham county, Virginia, after coming to America, but remained only two years when they came to Holmes county, Ohio, remaining there but a short time, finally arriving in Putnam county, Ohio, where they settled, one and one-half miles southeast of Pendleton, now Pandora. Here Peter Schumacher continued to farm the old homestead, until his death on May 28, 1881, at the age of sixty-two. In addition to the two hundred and fourteen acres, in the original Schumacher homestead, which he inherited from his father, Peter purchased ninety acres from his brother John's son, Christian, which adjoins the old place on the south. Peter Schumacher lived on the old homestead all his life. In addition to being a farmer, he was a minister in the local Mennonite church. He was a well-educated, self-made man and spoke three languages fluently, German, French and English. He was held in high esteem by all who knew him. Among his other accomplishments, he taught school for three years and was appointed, on various occasions, to act as administrator and executor of estates. He was frequently called upon to draw up legal papers and to settle differences between his neighbors. In many ways he was easily the leader in the community. He was a man of high ideals, of sterling integrity and, in every way, a most excellent character.

Peter and Elizabeth (Suter) Schumacher had sixteen children, all of whom grew to man and womanhood, and all of whom reared large families. Barbara first married Christian Amstutz, and after his death David Basinger; Magdalene married Abraham Bixler; Fannie is the wife of Peter T. Steiner; Mary married Christian Lugibihl; Elizabeth married Benjamin Hilty; Christian is the subject of this sketch; John married Barbara Geiger; Catherine became the wife of Jacob Steiner; Peter married Elizabeth Moser; David married Marian Geiger; Adam married Sarah Welty; Daniel married Sarah Gillion; Benjamin married Sarah Miller; Sarah became the wife of E. D. Kohli; Susan became the wife of Ulrich Steiner, and Lydia married Noah Moser.

In a large degree, Christian Schumacher has followed in the footsteps of his worthy father. He stands high in the community where he lives and commands the respect of everybody. He enjoys the reputation of being an upright citizen and one who has done very much for the community where he lives. Mr. Schumacher is a Democrat. He is a member of the Grace



Mennonite church, of which his son Albert is now the pastor. Formerly, Mr. Schumacher was a deacon in the Ebenezer church for ten years. He is a man of strong religious convictions and faithful to every religious trust and duty.

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### PHILIP NEUENSCHWANDER.

It is by no means an easy task to describe, within the limits of this review, the life of a man who has been eminently active and useful, and who by his own exertions, has reached the position of honor and trust in his business and in the political life of his community. But biography finds justification, nevertheless, in recording such a life history, since the public claim a certain interest in the career of every individual. The time invariably arrives when it become advisable to set forth the facts in a man's career. It is with a certain degree of satisfaction that the chronicler essays the task of touching briefly upon the record of Philip Neuenschwander, a well-known citizen of Pandora and the proprietor of an automobile garage at this place.

Philip Neuenschwander was born on July 23, 1861, in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio. He is the son of Isaac and Mary (Steiner) Neuenschwander. Isaac Neuenschwander was born in 1820, at Basel, Switzerland, and, in 1825, came to America with his parents when five years of age. They were seventy-eight days on the voyage, and, upon arriving in this country, came first to Wayne county. There were five children in the family, three sons and two daughters, all of whom were born in Switzerland. They entered government land in Wayne county, the deed for which was written on leather. Here Isaac Neuenschwander spent his childhood on the homestead, and, when a young man, came to Richland township, Allen county, where he made his home with his brother, John, who was farming about four and one-half miles northwest of Bluffton. He remained with his brother about ten years when he was married to Mary Steiner. She was born in Richland township, one and one-half miles northwest of Bluffton, about 1827, and her parents were pioneers of Allen county. After his marriage, Isaac Neuenschwander located on a farm five and one-half miles west of Bluffton, which comprised one hundred and sixty acres and was heavily timbered and largely covered with water. Here he lived until his death, in 1890. He passed through all of the pioneer experiences. He built a one and one-half story log cabin, which later burned in midwinter when there was a heavy snow on the ground. It was replaced by another, which

served for a number of years, or until Mr. Neuenschwander built a ten-roomed brick house, where Philip Neuenschwander was born and where he spent his childhood and grew to manhood. He attended the district schools in winter and helped his father and brothers clear the land during the summer. He remained on the old home place until twenty-three years of age.

Philip Neuenschwander was married in January, 1885, to Maggie Bixel, the daughter of Peter and Fannie (Suter) Bixel, the former of whom was a native of Wayne county and descended from Swiss pioneer stock, and the latter born two miles southeast of Pandora also of Swiss stock. After his marriage, Philip Neuenschwander located about two miles east of Pandora on the Ridge road, on the old Lenhart farm of eighty acres, and which he purchased, living here from 1885 until 1909. When Mr. Neuenschwander purchased this farm, fifty acres were cleared. He cleared the remainder of the land with the exception of seven and one-half acres. On this farm three children were born and reared. Five years after his marriage, he suffered the greatest misfortune of his life when his wife, who had been faithful and devoted to her husband, died on January 11, 1890. She was a member of the Mennonite church and a young woman with a beautiful Christian character. Philip and Maggie (Bixel) Neuenschwander were the parents of three children, Willis Lee, who is a student at Oberlin College, where he is preparing for the ministry; Waldo Milton, a graduate of the Ohio State Veterinary College, who was employed by the state for one year, when he located in Bluffton, where he now enjoys a growing practice in his chosen profession. He married Elma Steiner and they have one daughter, Elenora; Magdalena is still single and at home.

Philip Neuenschwander has been a very successful farmer. He retired from the farm in 1909, and moved to Pandora. Two years later, he disposed of his farm. After moving to Pandora, he was appointed township road supervisor and held this position for one year. After this, he bought an interest in the Pandora Cement Block Company and acted as manager of this firm for four years. He disposed of his interests in 1914, and purchased the garage of Henry Suter. In company with L. G. Steiner, he has operated this garage since 1914, which is known as the Pandora Auto Company. It has up-to-date equipments, a splendid salesroom and a large patronage.

Philip Neuenschwander is a Democrat, has been a member of the Riley township school board for five years, during which time the Pandora high school was built. He is a member of the Grace Mennonite church and a

trustee of that denomination. There are no better men in Riley township than Philip Neuenschwander and few citizens who are more progressive and up-to-date than he. As a man, he enjoys the respect of all who know him, for he has a clean character and his integrity is unquestioned.

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#### EDMUND L. LAIBE.

It cannot be other than interesting to note, in the series of personal sketches appearing in this work, the varying conditions that have compassed those whose careers are outlined, and the effort has been made in each case to throw well-focused light upon the individuality and to bring into proper perspective the scheme of each respective career. Each man who strives to fulfill his part in connection with human life and human activities is deserving of recognition, whatever may be his field of endeavor, and it is the function of works of this nature to perpetuate, for future generations, an authentic record concerning those represented in its pages, and the value of such publications is certain to be cumulative for all time to come, showing forth the individual and specific accomplishments of which generic history is ever engendered.

Edmund L. Laibe was born in Buffalo, New York, on November 7, 1854, and is the son of Marcus and Catherine (Basinger) Laibe, both natives of the old country from the Province of Alsace-Lorraine, and where the paternal and maternal grandparents lived and died. The maternal grandfather was a soldier under the great Napoleon, accompanying him on the march to Russia, and was present at the siege of Moscow. He was one of the few who returned to France after the great campaign of that year. Of the paternal grandparents' children, there was a son, John, besides the father of the subject of this review, who came to this country, and later died in the state of Michigan.

Marcus Laibe came to this country when he was twenty-one years of age, and, having learned the blacksmithing trade, entered into that business in New York and carried it on until about the time he met his future wife. Catherine Basinger left the province of Alsace-Lorraine when a very young girl, and was forty-eight days on board ship crossing the Atlantic ocean before her arrival in New York. After her marriage to Marcus Laibe, they continued to reside in New York, where he engaged in the baking business, having learned the baker trade in the old country, which business he con-

tinued for several years. Having decided to remove to the city of Buffalo, New York, where he located and established a blacksmith shop on Walnut street, he remained there for three or four years, then removed to the town of Pandora, Putnam county, Ohio, where he also engaged in blacksmithing, erected a shop for that purpose, and continued for a period of fourteen years. After these years, Edward Laibe's father acquired a farm consisting of eighty acres in Riley township, this county, which he cleared for general farm purposes, besides conducting a blacksmith shop in connection therewith, when he, subsequently, purchased one hundred twenty-five acres additional land. Having successfully farmed and served the community by blacksmithing for a period of twenty years, he decided to take up his residence near the town of Ottawa, Ohio, where he purchased five acres of land and built a substantial home, in which he and his wife resided until their deaths. To them were born the following children: Amelia, Edmund, Ely, Edward, William, George, Frank Mark, and an infant, which died without name. The deceased parents were highly esteemed citizens of sterling worth, and, together with the family, are members of St. John's Catholic church of Ottawa.

At the time Edmund L. Laibe's father and mother removed from the city of Buffalo, New York, and settled in Putnam county, Edmund L. was about one year old. In his youth he attended the school in Pandora, this county, and lived under the parental roof until the time of his marriage to Magdelene Croft on November 11, 1876, who was the daughter of Joseph and Mary Croft, natives of the Province of Alsace-Lorraine, and who settled in Ottawa township, Putnam county, in a very early day. Besides the wife of our subject, there was born to that union, Joseph, Mary, Katherine, Mary Magdelene, John, Jacob, Matthew, George and Frank.

After his marriage, Edmund L. Laibe removed to a farm in Riley township, containing one hundred and twenty acres, which he purchased and cleared, erecting a number of farm buildings and, in general, putting the place in first-class condition. After residing on this place for twenty-one years, he decided to move to Ottawa, where he built a residence near that of his father's and engaged in the meat business. Later on he discontinued this for the purpose of devoting his entire time and attention to the buying of live stock, in which line he has been very successful, and is at this time engaged. The residence erected in Ottawa remained his home for nineteen years. He is now pleasantly domiciled in a substantial home just north of the town. To Edmund L. and Magdelene (Croft) Laibe have been born the following children: Mary, who is married to Benjamin Herringhaus,

resides in Ottawa, and have three children, Francis, Cornelius and Robert; Frank, the husband of Cordelia Kahle, an enterprising druggist of Ottawa; Blanche, the wife of Cornelius Ellis, who lives in Bloomington, Illinois, and where he makes his headquarters as a traveling salesman. They have two children; George married Laura Kahle and they have two children, and reside in Ottawa, where he is occupied as a traveling salesman. Of Edmund L. Laibe's children, Frank, Blanche and George received their education in the schools in Ottawa, to which George added a course in a business college in Lima, Ohio; William attended college in Rensselaer, Indiana, and Mary was a student at the Ursuline convent in Toledo, Ohio.

Edmund L. Laibe, wife and family, are members of St. John's Catholic church at Ottawa, and Mr. Laibe is regarded by all as being one of the foremost citizens of this community, having established a firm reputation for honesty of purpose in all his dealings with his fellow men, and by being the advocate of clean and wholesome principles in the home, society and politics. Because of his splendid character and good business ability, he has earned and enjoys the sincere respect of all who know him.

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#### CHARLES W. DRAPER.

A representative of the younger modern business man, is Charles W. Draper, of West Leipsic, Ohio, who displays, to a marked degree, those qualities which accentuate the men who are at the head of affairs today. Mr. Draper is thoroughly aware of the opportunities which confront him and in his business he welcomes any innovation which is practical and suits his needs.

Charles W. Draper was born on September 23, 1879, in Hancock county, Ohio, and is the son of Warren C. and Almira (Hosler) Draper, who were the parents of four children, Charles Warren, Belle, Harry H. and Bernice.

The father of Mr. Draper, Warren C. Draper, was born in Summit county, Ohio, on January 2, 1853, the son of Warren Luke and Louisa (Loracole) Draper, who were the parents of the following children; Sarah Ann, Warren C., Salina Elizabeth, James Edward, Maretia J., Charles. Warren C. Draper was reared in Hancock county and lived at home until he was twenty-three years of age, when, on December 23, 1876, he married Almira Jane Hosler, the daughter of John and Isabella Hosler, who were

pioneers of Hancock county. Warren Draper, after marriage, lived four years near Arcadia, Hancock county, and then moved to within three miles (northeast) of Gilboa, Putnam county. He bought eighty acres, which were but partly cleared, although the land is practically all cleared now. Mr. Draper is a general farmer and stock raiser.

The education of Charles Draper was obtained in the common and high schools, also in Crawfis College, from which he graduated, and after which he took a business course of shorthand and accounting in the Lima Business College, Lima, Ohio. Later, Mr. Draper taught school in Putnam county for four years. After this he spent four years in the lumber business in Arkansas. He returned to the North and was employed by Hixon & Company, a lumber firm, in Toledo, Ohio, as superintendent of their yards at Glandorf, in Putnam county and at Winchester, Indiana, where he worked three years. He came to Leipsic about 1909, where he was employed as manager of the Lucas Produce Company, of West Leipsic, which position he now holds. The Lucas Produce Company is a New York concern, which buys poultry and ships it dressed.

- On June 20, 1910, Mr. Draper married Edith Terflinger, whose father, J. P. Terflinger, was a native of Virginia and his wife was a native of Allen county, Ohio. Charles W. and Edith (Terflinger) Draper are the parents of three children, James Edward, John Warren and Richard Charles.

The Leipsic chapter of the Knights of Pythias consider Mr. Draper as a valuable member. In his politics, he is a Republican, while he and his family are members of the Lutheran Evangelical church. Mr. Draper is friendly and congenial, and endowed with a happy disposition, which has gained for him a wide circle of friends. At the same time his recognized ability and trustworthiness enables him to maintain a high standing in his sphere.

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#### HERMAN B. SCHMENK.

Herman B. Schmenk, son of Louis and Dorothy (Lammers) Schmenk, was born on May 8, 1872, in the southeastern part of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio. His father was born in Liverpool, Ohio, August 8, 1849, whose parents, Herman and Lydia Schmenk, were natives of Germany, where they were engaged in farming, but, later immigrated to this country and settled in Putnam county, Ohio. Four children were born to this union: Henry, Jennie, Catherine and Louis. The parents are now deceased.

Soon after the marriage of Louis Schmenk and Dorothy Lammers, who was the daughter of Bernard and Lydia Lammers, of New Cleveland, they moved to Liberty township, Putnam county, where he engaged in the manufacture of brick and drain tile. The tile factory was located near the town of Leipsic and was operated for about ten years. Concluding to discontinue the manufacturing business, Mr. Schmenk then purchased a sixty-acre tract of land in Liberty township, to which twenty acres were added at a later date. To Louis and Dorothy Schmenk were born three children: Herman, Bernard and Mary; and, by a second marriage, to Elizabeth Winkler (deceased), ten children were born: Casper; Henry; Addie, deceased; Adolph; John; Gertrude; Walter; Amelia; Romana and Louis.

Herman Schmenk's mother died when he was in the fifth year of his age, and his early life was spent about his father's farms. Upon attaining the age of nineteen, he concluded to leave the farm and found occupation with a railroad company, working in the capacity of a section hand. After eighteen months' experience in this class of labor, performing the hardest kinds of manual work and receiving but little compensation, he was taken severely ill and was obliged to give up. As a result of this arduous employment, he acquired habits of industry and extreme frugality, which proved a valuable asset to him in his later undertakings.

Herman B. Schmenk was married in 1899, to Catherine Wischmeyer, of Ballman, Ottawa township, Putnam county, daughter of Ferdinand and Catherine Wischmeyer, who were natives of Germany. Immediately after his marriage, he removed to Fulton county, Ohio, where he opened up and conducted a restaurant business for a short time. Not being entirely satisfied with this occupation, he discontinued it, and then secured a place in a saw-mill. This change resulted in such a severe accident that he was disabled for four years, occurring but six months for the time of his marriage. Misfortune seemed to follow him, and at the time of his recovery from the accident in the saw-mill, he contracted typhoid fever, which kept him down for some time.

While these happenings greatly affected him physically, and depleted him financially, he was not daunted from striving for success. Through all his misfortunes he was constantly encouraged by his ever-faithful, loyal and loving wife, whose close attention to him gave him inspiration to forge ahead. After the last illness, he went to Ottawa, where he secured employment in a restaurant, and, on regaining his strength, he went to work in a tile factory, where he earned fair wages and began to accumulate funds which would give him a new start in life.

It was in the year 1910 that he secured a position on the road with a dealer in produce as a salesman. Having given this business his close and undivided attention, acquiring a keen knowledge of the details, he decided, after two years in the service of his employer, to embark in a similar line for himself. Establishing as a dealer in poultry, butter and eggs, a buyer and shipper of cream and other products, Mr. Schmenk has placed himself in an enviable position, has proved himself highly successful as a business man. His business has grown to such proportions that it is necessary for him to employ numerous purchasing agents, who cover the surrounding territory in wagons. All this has been accomplished within the time of a very few years, despite continued reverses, gaining for himself and family a most substantial business, a comfortable home situated on four and one-half acres of the choicest land, valued at about three thousand five hundred dollars.

To Herman B. and Catherine (Wischmeyer) Schmenk were born four children: Hugo, Harold, Ilva and Alveda. All are members of Sts. Peter and Paul's Roman Catholic church at Ottawa. The ever good, loving, faithful and true wife and mother, unfortunately, was called from this world on January 2, 1915.

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### JOHN HENRY HARTMAN.

Nothing is so essential to a lasting business success as absolute integrity, and this is undoubtedly the cause of the prosperity attending the business of John Henry Hartman, of Columbus Grove. His honesty is unquestioned and he has the confidence and esteem of his fellow men.

It was in Monroe township, Allen county, on September 8, 1857, that John Henry Hartman came into this world. He is the son of John S. and Elizabeth (Morris) Hartman, who were the parents of the children briefly mentioned as follow: Mrs. Levina Jennings lives in Lima, Ohio; John H. is the subject of this sketch; William lives in Allen county, Ohio; Joseph is on an Allen county farm; Mrs. Maggie Huffubuat lives in Allen county, as does George Hulbert; Mrs. Ella Blosser resides in Cloverdale, Ohio, and Mrs. Cora Snyder lives on the homestead.

John Henry Hartman's paternal grandfather, Godfrey Hartman, was a native of Germania, Pennsylvania, who entered government land, eight miles north of Lima, Ohio, when his son, John S., was two years of age, to which land he came from Pennsylvania in a wagon drawn by oxen. He was a successful, hard-working man and a power in his community. He died on the homestead in 1873, when John H. was sixteen years of age.



John S. Hartman worked on the home farm until he was married, when he bought forty acres of wild land for four hundred dollars, the land being located three miles southwest of Columbus Grove, in Allen county. He spent his life on this farm, which he greatly improved, and where he died in March, 1906. He was a member of no lodge of a fraternal order, and never sought political honors, although he was township trustee for a time and held several other offices elected on the Democratic ticket. He was a devout member of the Christian church at West Cairo, Ohio. His wife is a native of Allen county, Ohio, and was born in October, 1835, the daughter of Henry and Margaret (Weaver) Morris, and she still lives on the home farm, at the age of seventy-nine years.

As it was necessary that he work on the home farm, John Henry Hartman was poorly educated, attending the township schools as opportunity offered. He lived at home until his marriage and then bought a farm three miles west of Columbus Grove, Ohio, which he cultivated for six years, when he moved to Columbus Grove, where he successfully maintained a livery stable for three years, after which he sold out and moved back to Allen county, where he rented a farm for a short time and then bought it. Later, he bought his father-in-law's place, which he farmed for about four years and then sold out, moving back to Columbus Grove, where he established a furniture store, which he still operates in partnership with his son, Jay L., under the firm name of John H. Hartman & Son.

On November 18, 1879, John Henry Hartman married Martha Pettitt, the daughter of John and Jane (Severus) Pettitt, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania and who settled in Coshocton, Ohio, at an early date, farming there until his marriage, when he moved to Putnam county, where he settled in the swamps near Ottawa, where he successfully developed a farm. He died in December, 1909. His wife was a native of Coshocton county, Ohio; she died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. H. Hartman, August 12, 1906, at the age of eighty-three.

To the union of John Henry and Martha (Pettitt) Hartman were born the following children: Lula, who married Orlo Michael, lives at Van Wert, Ohio, where he is employed in a furniture store, to whom were born two children, John and Martha Maxiam; Alta married Charles Jones, a Pleasant township farmer, and they have two children, Morris and Charles; Jay L. married Clara Clevenger, a native of Kalida, Ohio, and they live in Columbus Grove, Ohio, where he has a half interest in a furniture store with his father, and they have two children, Louise and Richard; Ray married Elsie Bogert and lives in Columbus Grove, where he maintains a thriving grocery

store; Lay married Russell Henderson and resides in Columbus Grove; Zula still lives at home.

John Henry Hartman is a member of the Modern Woodmen of the World, is a Democrat and has been on the town council for four years. He and his family belong to the Christian church, of which he has been trustee for twenty years. He was formerly Sunday school superintendent and has always taken a deep interest in church work. He is a good business man and his well-known integrity assures him of universal friendship and respect.

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### WILLIAM RAMPE.

There could be no more comprehensive history written of a city, or county, or even of a state and its people, than that which deals with the life-work of those who, by their own endeavor and indomitable energy, have placed themselves where they well deserve the title of "progressive," and in this review will be found the record of one who has outstripped the less active and less able plodders on the highway of life, one who has not been subdued by the many obstacles and failures that come to everyone, but who has made them stepping stones to higher things, and, at the same time that he was winning his way in the material affairs of life, gained a reputation for uprightness and honor.

William Rampe was born in Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, on January 11, 1853, and is the son of William and Theresa (Ellerbrock) Rampe, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. The father was born on December 11, 1827, in the Province of Hanover, Germany, where he attended school and learned the shoemaker trade. When he was twenty years old, he decided to immigrate to America, and was joined in the trip by his two brothers. This was in the year 1847, and upon arrival in this country he decided to make his home in the city of Cincinnati, Ohio, where he followed his trade for the ensuing two years. He made a trip to the town of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1849, which was known to be largely settled by natives of Germany, and remained there until the following year, when he went to Dayton, Ohio, for the purpose of establishing himself in business. Six months later, however, he decided to return to Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, where he went into the business of manufacturing and retailing shoes. In this business, he attained a widespread reputation throughout the northwestern portion of the state

of Ohio, and many times found it necessary to employ nearly fifteen shoemakers to take care of the production and thus enable him to supply the demand for his goods. Mr. Rampe's shoe trade was handled through established shoe dealers throughout this region, and he maintained a retail business himself to supply the local inhabitants.

In the year 1850, William Rampe was married to Theresa Ellerbrock, a daughter of William Ellerbrock and wife, who were among the early settlers coming to the town of Glandorf, Ohio, and to them were born twelve children. The wife and mother of these children was taken away by death on March 17, 1875. At a later date is recorded the second marriage to Wilhelmina Schmidt, and that he died in Glandorf, Ohio, on November 28, 1893, after having spent a noble and most useful life with his family and the inhabitants of Putnam county.

William Rampe, Jr., went to school in the town of Glandorf, Ohio, and in his youth plied his trade, as a shoemaker, in the employ of his able father. Under his father's direction, he became a master workman in this line, and remained in the business for a number of years. At a later date, Mr. Rampe established himself in the retail shoe business, in the town of Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, where he was very successful, and after many years of service to the public in the sale of shoes, retired. Being a hustler and a man of sound business judgment and sagacity, having an excellent knowledge of actual real estate values throughout this and other counties and states, Mr. Rampe, could not content himself by leading the life of a retired merchant, and, consequently, decided to embark in the real estate business, making a specialty of dealing in farm property in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. In this line he has been a great success, possessing himself with large holdings in the surrounding country, and being a public-spirited man, is always ready to give just consideration to meritorious propositions for the advancement of the community in which he lives. His residence and chief place of business, is in the town of Ottawā, Ohio, where he is reputably known to have been associated with real estate transactions for the past twenty-five years.

William Rampe was married three times, first time to Agnes Nienberg, now deceased, and by which marriage two children were born, Charles and Carrie; the second time to Anna Dummeldinger, now deceased, and by whom there were three children, Elnora, Lillian and Alfred; the third marriage was to Elizabeth McGeery, to whom one child, Mary E., was born. Mary E. is now attending school at the Ursuline convent, Toledo, Ohio; Charles W. is married to Emma Fisher, formerly of Toledo, who now resides in the city

of Cleveland, Ohio. To this union there were born four children, John, Paul, William and Robert. The father is the treasurer and one of the original founders of the well-known Foster Nut & Bolt Company, of Cleveland, Ohio; Carrie took a course in the art of nursing and follows that profession in the city of Cleveland, Ohio; Elnora is the wife of J. J. Lynch, formerly city auditor of Toledo, Ohio, and now engaged as a solicitor for the Hocking Valley railroad, to whom one child was born, Elnora; Lillian is the wife of H. Stechschulte and they reside in Lima, Ohio, where the husband is occupied as manager of the clothing house of the B. R. Baker Company, clothiers. Two children, William and Mary, were born to this union; Alfred, at present a bachelor, is secretary and treasurer of the W. H. Coffee Company, of Toledo, Ohio, a high-priced tailoring establishment, and in which he is interested financially.

William Rampe, personally, is a man whom it is a pleasure to know, being generous-hearted, kind, helpful, honest in all his dealings with his fellow men and eminently worthy of the trust and respect reposed in him, and he is today regarded as one of the county's most representative men. He is a member of Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic church, of Ottawa, and an active member of the Knights of Columbus.

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### JOHN M. HECK.

One of the highly respected retired farmers of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, is John M. Heck, a loyal and courageous soldier in the Civil War, a successful farmer, prominent in fraternal circles in his community, and has been honored with positions of political and public responsibility.

John M. Heck was born in 1835, in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, the son of Michael and Christina (Klotz) Heck. Michael Heck came from Wurtemberg, Germany, and lived in Tuscarawas county, until 1870, when he moved to Putnam county and settled in Liberty township at what was called Maderia, an old stage-coach stop that had hopes of becoming the county seat at one time. Here he was a farmer for about fourteen years when he moved to Indiana, and there spent the remainder of his life. Christina Klotz was also a native of Wurtemberg and came to America about 1830, at the age of seventeen, with her parents, Frederick and Catherine (Harr) Klotz. Catherine Harr, the maternal grandmother of John M. Heck, was born in Wur-



JOHN A. HECK AND FAMILY.



temberg, Germany, the daughter of Jacob Harr, who kept a hotel at Breitenholtz called "At the Sign of the Lamb." He was a wealthy man and left a fund in perpetuity, the income of which was to furnish bread to the poor of that village. That fund is still in existence.

Michae' Heck was the son of Jacob Heck, whose father came from Holland to Switzerland and then to Wurtemberg, whence the family came to America. The name was originally spelled Hockh. Mr. Heck still has the certified copy of the parish record of the family's births, baptisms, and deaths with the seal on it. In that record the name is retained with the original spelling.

John M. Heck grew up in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, and followed boating on the Ohio canal. Later, he managed coal mines, furnaces and public works. He served as a soldier in Company A, One Hundred and Sixty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was in the service until just before the close of the war.

He remained in Tuscarawas county until 1873, when he came to Leipsic. He bought a farm one mile northwest of West Leipsic in 1872, and moved there in 1873. With the exception of two years, when he lived in Leipsic, he has farmed on this farm.

Mr. Heck was married in 1861 to Louisa Eckfeld, who was born in Wayne county, Ohio, the daughter of Jacob and Margaret Eckfeld, who were born and married in Oldenburg, Germany. Nine children were born to Jacob and Margaret (Eckfeld) Heck, of whom two died in infancy. The other seven living children are George Frederick, Susan Amelia, Louisa Christina, Harvey Michael, Emma Catherine, Nellie May and David Nelson. George F. married Lillian Thompson and she died, leaving three children who were reared in Mr. Heck's home; Susan married George Hollabaugh, of West Leipsic, and has eight children; Louisa married Henry Bogard, who died in October, 1909, leaving six children; Harvey, who is unmarried, lives at Ottawa; Emma married Calvin Nemire, of Leipsic, and has four children living and three dead; Nellie married W. H. Reichelderfer, of near Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and has three children. They live on the Heck farm, and Nelson, who married Laura Arnold, lives in Leipsic and has one child.

William H. Reichelderfer, who married Mr. Heck's daughter, Nellie, was born near Harlan, Indiana, the son of Jacob and Sarah (Harter) Reichelderfer. Jacob Reichelderfer was born and reared on the farm where he now lives near Harlan and has lived for eighty years. William H. Reichelderfer helped to build the Detroit, Toledo & Ironton railroad through West

Leipsic, in 1897 and 1899. For the first three years after he married Nellie Heck, they lived in Detroit, but came back to her old home, west of Leipsic, and helped her father conduct the farm. Their children are: Forest, Lucile and Mildred. William Reichelderfer and wife belong to the Lutheran church and Mr. Reichelderfer is a member of the Masons, while he and his wife both belong to the Patrons of Husbandry.

John M. Heck served one term as trustee of Liberty township and discharged his duties to the entire satisfaction of the people of that township. Mr. Heck is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, having been a member since 1871, and a charter member of Leipsic Lodge No. 548. Mr. Heck and his family belong to the Lutheran church.

Mrs. John M. Heck died on March 12, 1912. She was an earnest and devoted Christian woman, reading much in her German Bible and other good books and left to her children a noble example of Christian faith tried by affliction. She was an affectionate mother and a faithful helpmate to her husband to whom she was joined in wedlock for nearly fifty-three years.

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#### HENRY F. LIGHT.

No more comprehensive history could be written of a city or county or even of a state and its people than that which deals with the life works of its people, who, by their own endeavor and indomitable energy, have achieved success in their respective vocations. Henry F. Light is a man, who, in the business world, has outstripped his competitors on the highway of life, one who has never been subdued by obstacles and failures that come to every one, but he has made them stepping stones to higher things. At the time when he has been winning success in the material things of life, he has likewise won a reputation for uprightness and square dealings, no inconsiderable factors in the career of the present-day business man.

Henry F. Light was born on August 19, 1858, at Columbus Grove, Ohio, the daughter of John and Mary (Walters) Light. John Light was a native of Richland county, Ohio, born on February 15, 1834. He is still living on his farm five miles west of Lima, Ohio, in Allen county. He is now retired at the age of eighty-one years. He has been a farmer most of his life, and during that time has conducted a grocery and meat market, having come to Putnam county at the age of twenty-one years. Here he engaged in farming until 1902, when he moved to Lima, Ohio. John and



Mary Light celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary on December 14, 1914. John Light was a township trustee of Putnam county, and has held other minor township offices, has been an active Democrat throughout his life, and is a member of the Methodist church at Helsel Chapel, Ohio. During his active career John Light was much interested in the work of his church and was a liberal donor to its enterprises. Very few obstacles could prevent his attendance at church. He has been a well-known man in his community. His wife, who before her marriage was Mary Walters, was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, August 11, 1836, and came to Richland county, Ohio, with her parents at an early age. She is still living in Allen county at the age of seventy-nine years. Her father owned eighty acres of land, which he purchased when he came to Defiance county in 1855. Mrs. Light has been a kind and loving mother, and she and her husband have been the parents of four children: George W., who died in 1890; Henry F., whose history is here presented; Alfred H., who lives on the homestead farm in Allen county with his parents, and Frances B., who married Edward Norris, the owner of a livery barn in Ohio City, Ohio. She owns a millinery store in that city.

Henry F. Light spent his boyhood days in the vicinity of Columbus Grove, Ohio. Until his marriage he lived with his parents on the homestead farm in Putnam county. About one year before his marriage he learned the drug trade with J. M. Crawford, who became his father-in-law. He worked here as a clerk for about five years, and for the next five years worked in different business places in that capacity. Subsequently he took the examination for railway mail clerk and was appointed as clerk on the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton and later on the Pennsylvania railroad, serving in this capacity, altogether, two years. He resigned to enter the drug business at Columbus Grove with his brother-in-law, W. L. Crawford. They continued in business for three years, when Mr. Light sold out to Mr. Crawford and engaged in the hardware business at Columbus Grove with his father-in-law, John M. Crawford. This partnership continued for about four years, when they both sold out, and together they entered the lumber business. Mr. Light is still active in this business and has been for the past seventeen years.

Henry F. Light was married on May 5, 1881, to Minnie E. Crawford, the daughter of John M. and Sarah A. (Martin) Crawford. They have had two children, Archie L. and Cathaline, both of whom are deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Light adopted a daughter from the Orphans' Home at Cincinnati,

Ohio. This daughter, Helene, married W. S. Bell, of California, who is now employed by Mr. Light in the lumber business.

Henry F. Light, who was associated with John M. Crawford so long in business, is himself a member of the Methodist church, as well as his family. Mr. Light is now a trustee of the church and teacher of the men's Bible class in the Sunday school. He is an active Democrat and can always be depended upon when support is needed. Mr. Light is a member of Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 376, of Columbus Grove. He has served as mayor of Columbus Grove for one term, a member of the board of public affairs for several terms, town clerk for two terms and member of the school board for two terms. Henry F. Light is a congenial man and has a host of friends in and around Columbus Grove, where he is widely known.

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### SAMUEL H. KEIRNS.

Whether the elements of success in this life are an attribute of the individual, or whether they are quickened by a process of circumstantial development, it is impossible to determine clearly. Yet the study of a successful life, whatever the field of endeavor, is none the less interesting and profitable by reason of the existence of this uncertainty. In the life career of Samuel H. Keirns, who for many years has been identified with the various interests of Putnam county, Ohio, we find many qualities in his makeup that always win definite success. The splendid success which has crowned his efforts has been directly traceable to the fundamental elements of his character. He started in life at the bottom of the ladder and has mounted it unaided. He comes of a splendid American family, one that has always been devoted to right living and industrious habits, to education and morality, to loyalty for the national government and for all that contributes to the welfare of a community. Samuel H. Keirns is a man who saw gallant service during the Civil War and who is honored today for the part he had in preserving the union of the states.

Samuel H. Keirns was born on February 1, 1845, in Monroe township, Allen county, Ohio. He is the son of John and Elizabeth (Strawsnider) Keirns. John Keirns was born in 1791 in Pennsylvania and was the son of Jonathan and Catherine (Kenter) Keirns. John Keirns died in October, 1870, at the age of seventy-nine. His father, Jonathan Keirns, was born in Ireland and came to America with the British army as a British soldier. He

served in the Revolutionary War on the side of the British. Jonathan Keirns was born on January 17, 1761, and was married in 1781, at Bloody Run, Pennsylvania, to Catherine Kenter. He settled in Pennsylvania and was engaged in the promotion of public works, especially in the iron and ore industry. After living in Pennsylvania for a time, he left for West Virginia to seek a new location. Finding a location in West Virginia, he sent for his wife and their four children, who came to him overland on horseback. The wife carried the children in sewed pockets of bed ticks, two children on each side. She walked a part of the way. Here Jonathan Keirns and his wife lived and died, on Big Sandy creek, West Virginia. He died on January 26, 1853, at the ripe age of ninety-two. They had four children: William, John, George and Sarah, all deceased.

John Keirns came to West Virginia, with his mother, as an infant, and grew up there. Subsequently, he came to Marietta, Ohio, and there was married to a Miss Ellenwood, who bore him nine children, Mary, Lampsin, George and Elizabeth, all deceased, and five others whose names are not known. John Keirns first wife died, after which he married Elizabeth Strawsnider, who bore him ten children, William R., Carlista, John W., and Benjamin F. are deceased; Samuel H., who is the subject of this sketch, and five whose names are not known. John Keirns's second wife died in 1852, when Samuel H. was only five years old. She was born on May 10, 1828. Later, John Keirns married his third wife, Mary L. Hicks, a native of Kalida, Ohio, who bore him five children, James Alfred, George, two who died in infancy, and Charles Abraham Lincoln are all now deceased. John Keirns was the father of twenty-four children by his three marriages, ten of whom died in infancy. He left Marietta, Ohio, for Allen county, and here purchased a farm and operated it for a time. He also ran a corn-mill with a horse tread-mill. After living here for a number of years he came to Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, in May, 1846, and purchased a grist and saw-mill operated by water-power, and about fifteen acres of land. He came from Allen to Putnam county by wagon on a trail path. He remained in Putnam county, farming and operating the mill until 1860, when he suffered a stroke of paralysis and was compelled to retire from active work. He died ten years later.

Samuel H. Keirns grew up in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio. He was but a year old when his father left Allen county and as time passed was educated in the township schools. He left home on August 16, 1862, to enlist in Company D, One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, at Vaughnsville, Ohio. His enlistment was for three years' service. He served partly in the Army of the Ohio and partly in the

Army of the Tennessee. He was under Burnside a while and, later, under Sherman. He participated in the battles of the Twenty-third Army Corps and with Sherman's army marched to Atlanta, which corps was sent back north to offset Hood's army. The balance of the army marched with Sherman to the sea. Mr. Keirns was engaged in the battles of Mosey creek in east Tennessee, the first battle of Resaca, Georgia, and in a number of serious fights of the Atlanta campaign, including the battle of Kenesaw Mountain. After the fall of Atlanta, Mr. Keirns was engaged with the Union army which fought Hood at Columbia, Tennessee, and at Duck river, Franklin and Nashville. After the defeat of Hood's army, he was transferred to Washington and from there placed on a vessel at Alexandria, Virginia, which ran to the southern coast of North Carolina. He was five days on the water, landing at Smithville, North Carolina. His party made a one-day march and met the rebels at Fort Anderson. They took the fort, after a two days' severe fight, and also took Wilmington, North Carolina, after shelling the town one-half day, then came on to Raleigh, North Carolina. In the meantime, Lee had surrendered to Grant. Mr. Keirns was then transferred to Salisbury, North Carolina, where he remained for several weeks. He was mustered out on June 24, 1865, paid off and discharged at Cleveland, Ohio, July 9, 1865. At the close of the war, Mr. Keirns returned home and, on July 10, 1865, arrived at the old home place.

Samuel H. Keirns was married on June 28, 1866, to Emily J. Deffenbaugh, the daughter of John and Anna (Parshall) Deffenbaugh. Mrs. Keirns was born on June 10, 1847, in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio. Her parents came to Putnam county in 1835, from Pennsylvania.

To Samuel H. and Emily J. (Deffenbaugh) Keirns six children have been born, the first died in infancy; Anna M., on April 3, 1869, died on April 28, 1869; John M., April 29, 1870, now lives in the West and is engaged in the railroad service; Edgar L., December 15, 1872, is a rural mail carrier out of Columbus Grove; Cora B., February 16, 1876, married T. M. Teegardin; the sixth child died in infancy.

After his marriage, Mr. Keirns moved to Kansas, where he remained for six years. Subsequently, he returned to Ohio and on December 8, 1874, settled at Gomer, Allen county, Ohio, where he lived for two years. He then returned to Putnam county and settled on a farm of eighty acres on November 28, 1876, which tract of land he farmed for more than twenty-two years. During a part of this period, however, he operated a threshing machine throughout the county. He was also engaged in the same business, while a resident of Kansas.

Subsequently, Mr. Keirns sold his farm in Putnam county and removed to Columbus Grove on April 25, 1899, where he has lived since that date. For about three years he was in the implement and buggy business in Columbus Grove, from 1905 to 1908. Continuing alone he handled this business until the spring of 1913, when he retired and became actively engaged in the real estate business. Mr. Keirns has also been a notary public for years. He holds a commission from several Ohio governors. Likewise, Mr. Keirns is a pension attorney and is actively engaged in this profession. For many years he was the only pension attorney in Columbus Grove.

Samuel H. Keirns is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Oglevie Post, No. 64; also of the Knights of Pythias No. 376, at Columbus Grove. He was a justice of the peace of Sugar Creek township and has served as assessor for a number of terms. At one time he served on the town council of Columbus Grove. He held this office two terms. Mr. Keirns is a staunch and active Republican. He was at one time a candidate for county commissioner and was defeated by a small margin. He is a member of the Christian church, a deacon and a financial secretary of that church and takes a great interest in church work and is one of the Sunday school teachers. Likewise, he is assistant chorister. All the members of the family, except the eldest son, are members of the same church.

Samuel H. Keirns is president of the Mutual Farmers Telephone Company and one of the directors of this concern. He is a man of sterling character and stands high in his community. He has been a hard worker and a good booster for all that seems good and just. He is widely acquainted, although a quiet and unassuming man, kind and generous and true to his convictions,—as to honesty in as well as outside of business.

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#### FRANCIS X. ANNESSER.

Francis X. Annesser is one of those strong, self-reliant and determined characters who are occasionally met with and who are of such a distinct type as to appear leaders of their fellow men. Not that Mr. Annesser courts this distinction, for he is entirely unassuming, but his great force of character and his zeal and energy in whatever he undertakes, naturally place him at the head of the class. He has been a potent factor in the development of Putnam county, where he has long maintained his home and where he is known to all classes for his honorable and industrious rise in both private and public life.

Mr. Annesser has been especially successful in business and now has one of the best mills in Putnam county.

Francis X. Annesser was born on October 3, 1863, in Auglaize county, Ohio. He is the son of William and Mary M. (Fisher) Annesser. William Annesser was born in 1834, in Seneca county, Ohio, and came to Auglaize county, when a young man, with his parents. He was a farmer and followed that vocation with his parents, until his marriage. He traded a one-hundred-and-sixty-acre farm for a mill at Wapakoneta, Ohio, which he operated for about three years. He sold out on January 18, 1879, and removed to Ottawa, Ohio, when he bought the Ottawa mill from William Agner. It was known as the Ottawa Flouring Mill. His family was moved to Ottawa and here William Annesser followed the milling business for twenty-eight years. He retired in 1906. He was a Republican and was rather active in the councils of his party. He was a member of the Free and Accepted Masons at Ottawa, first vice-president and director of the First National Bank when it was organized at Ottawa, and is still a director. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Mary Fisher, was a native of Baden, Germany, who came to the United States with her parents. They purchased property in Auglaize county and probably entered land from the government. Mrs. William Annesser, whose parents were B. S. and Mary (Bush) Fisher, was born on April 11, 1833. She is still living at the age of eighty-two.

William and Mary (Fisher) Annesser have been the parents of nine children, William B., born on November 23, 1856; Andrew, February 13, 1858; George, July 26, 1859; Charles, November, 1861; Francis X., the subject of this sketch, October 3, 1863; John M., March 3, 1886; Joseph, April 11, 1868; Mrs. Rosa Sherloh, wife of George Sherloh, May 25, 1873; Louis F., February 26, 1877. William B. lives in Canada, John in Michigan, Charles in Missouri, Joseph, Mrs. Sherloh, and Louis in Ottawa. George and Andrew are deceased. The former died in Texas in 1888.

The grandparents of Mr. Annesser were Michael and Mary (Sholl) Annesser, both natives of Alsace-Lorraine, who were reared and who married in their native country. They came to the United States in 1830, and first located at Hagerstown, Maryland. Three years later they came to Seneca county, Ohio, which was their home until 1844, when they removed to Auglaize county. Michael Annesser was a tailor in Germany, but became a farmer, after arriving in the United States. He died about 1874, and his wife ten years later. They were the parents of seven children, John; Joseph; Michael, deceased; William; Margaret, the wife of V. Blume; Mary, deceased, and Veronica. John and Joseph served in the Civil War, Joseph in the Fifty-

seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and John in an Ohio regiment. William Annesser was born July 8, 1834, and was married to Mary M. Fisher on October 8, 1855.

Francis X. Annesser spent his boyhood days with his father on the homestead farm and learned the milling trade with his father at the Ottawa mill. He was educated in the township schools of Auglaize county and the Wapakoneta high school. While in the milling business with his father at Ottawa, he became interested in the Columbus Grove mill, which he purchased in 1907. He moved his family to Columbus Grove in 1908, and is now active in the operation of the Columbus Grove mill. He has one of the best mills in Putnam county. Mr. Annesser started in the milling business at the age of eighteen years. He is one of the most successful millers in Ohio and knows his business thoroughly.

Francis X. Annesser was married on June 12, 1888, to Margaret S. Ault, a native of Ottawa, Ohio, and the daughter of William and Pauline (Zink) Ault. Francis X. and Margaret S. (Ault) Annesser have two children, Pauline and Elizabeth, both of whom are at home.

Francis X. Annesser is a Democrat and has always taken an active interest in his party's cause. He is a member of St. Anthony's Catholic church at Columbus Grove, as well as his family, all of whom are active in church work. Mr. Annesser is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio. He is an active man and takes pride in his mill. He is well known and widely admired, especially by his patrons, who have learned to honor and respect him. He has quite a reputation in Putnam county for honesty and square dealing, which accounts, in a great measure, for his large and growing business.

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#### RALPH P. KILLEN, D. D. S.

Ralph Parlet Killen, D. D. S., an efficient and successful dentist of Columbus Grove, is a native of Putnam county, Ohio. Doctor Killen, although in the prime of life, has achieved a success which comes to few men of his years. While it is not easy to discover and define the hidden forces which move a life to ceaseless activity and large professional success, Doctor Killen's well-defined purpose, professional training and intellectual discipline contribute, in a large measure, to explain his splendid success as a dentist.

Ralph Parlet Killen, the subject, was born on November 27, 1874, at Columbus Grove, Ohio. He is a son of Norris and Mary (Van Meter).

Killen. Norris Killen was born on May 28, 1838, in Richland county, Ohio, and he, in turn, was a son of John and Rebecca (Alberts) Killen.

John Killen was a blacksmith by trade and on coming to Putnam county, Ohio, located at Pandora, where he conducted a blacksmith shop for two years. He sold out his shop, at the latter place, after which he came to Columbus Grove, where he engaged in the same business, continuing at his trade as a blacksmith until his death, in 1848. He was considered a skilled workman, enjoyed a prosperous business, and won many friends by his fairness, frankness and honesty. His wife, who was Rebecca Alberts, was born in 1805, and died on December 25, 1892, at the age of eighty-seven.

Norris Killen, the father of Doctor Killen, spent his entire life at Columbus Grove. He was engaged in the buying and selling of timber for many years, and was highly successful. He operated a saw-mill at Columbus Grove, but sold the mill and engaged in the hardware business, in which he continued successfully for several years. From hardware he turned his attention to the shoe business at Columbus Grove, and was engaged in this for six years, selling out at the end of that time and retiring from active business life. Norris Killen was a quiet, unassuming, but keen business man, and a friend to all, especially to his close neighbors and to his children. He was a kind and loving father and a booster for all civic improvements. Norris Killen enlisted for service in the Union army in Company I. Eighty-eighth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, but did not see active service, since he was detailed to guard prisoners at Columbus, Ohio. His regiment was known as the "Bloody Eighty-eighth." He enlisted as a private at Columbus Grove for a period of three years, but, through his efficient record, was promoted to second lieutenant before leaving the service. He was discharged in 1865 at Columbus, Ohio. He was a charter member of Lodge No. 309, Free and Accepted Masons, of Columbus Grove, Ohio. Norris Killen and wife were the parents of five children: Mrs. Alfred R. Willis, of London, Kentucky; Mrs. Carl M. Wells, of Ada, Ohio; True, of Lima, Ohio; Guy B., a resident of Wyoming, and R. P. Killen, D. D. S., with whom this narrative deals. Norris Killen was also an enthusiastic member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Lima, Ohio, where he now resides, and served as a member of the school board of Columbus Grove for several terms, as well as on the town council, where he gave efficient service. He was an active worker during his life in the ranks of the Republican party and considered himself a "stand-patter." His wife, who, before her marriage, was Mary Van Meter, died at Columbus Grove, September 16, 1908, at the age of seventy.

Ralph P. Killen spent his boyhood days at Columbus Grove, Ohio,



where he received his early education, graduating from the Columbus Grove high school in 1894. Subsequently, he attended the Indiana Dental College, graduating from that institution with the class of 1897. Doctor Killen began the active practice of his profession at Lima, Ohio, where he remained for six months. He then came to Columbus Grove and established a place of business. He is still active and one of the leading dentists in Putnam county. He enjoys a large and lucrative practice and has a host of friends in Columbus Grove and vicinity. He is a genial man of excellent character and stands high in his community. He is a booster for all civic improvements and has been of much value to the town in which he lives.

Doctor Killen was married on July 26, 1898, to Edna R. Pease, the daughter of Monnie and Sarah F. (Thrapp) Pease. One child has been born to this union, Florence, who is living at home with her parents.

Ralph P. Killen, D. D. S., is a member of the Northwestern Ohio Dental Association, likewise the Ohio State and National Dental Associations. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Columbus Grove, and has passed through all the chairs of that order. He also served on the board of education for nine years, and was mayor of Columbus Grove between 1909 and 1913. He is an active Republican and is always to be found at the helm when he is most needed. He and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Doctor Killen has two interesting tax receipts in his possession which he values very highly. They were handed down by his father. One is dated 1837, is for ninety-nine cents, and is signed by Moses Lee, who was treasurer of Putnam county at that time. The other is dated 1844, for seven dollars and fifty-six cents, and is signed by C. M. Godfrey, then treasurer of Putnam county.

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### JAMES C. ROBINSON.

The year 1889 marked the beginning of the connection of James C. Robinson with the history of Putnam county, Ohio. In that year, he was married and located in Van Buren township, where he worked in a saw-mill, at Townwood, for a few years and then engaged in farming. For more than a score of years he has engaged in general farming and stock raising in Van Buren township, while, at the same time, he has taken an active part in the civic life of the community. He has served his fellow citizens in various capacities in an official way and has executed every trust which has been imposed upon him in a satisfactory manner.

James C. Robinson, the son of William and Mary (Kahl) Robinson, was born near Mansfield, Richland county, Ohio, October 28, 1861. His father was born in Weller township, Richland county, Ohio, and was a son of Thomas and Jennie Robinson, natives of England. Thomas Robinson came to America in 1819, and located in Richland county, Ohio.

William Robinson was reared on his father's homestead in Weller township, in Richland county, Ohio, and, after his marriage, bought a farm in Franklin township and lived there for about fifteen years. He then bought the old homestead, in Weller township, from the heirs and lived on this farm until his death, dying almost on the same spot where he was born. William Robinson was married, in 1855, to Mary Kahl, a daughter of Henry Kahl, and to this union ten children were born, Clara, who married Ira Q. Haverfield, and has three children, Vernot, who died in infancy; Ray, who died at the age of seven, and Mary; Florence, unmarried; Charles, who married Isabelle Pittinger, and has two daughters, Helen and Opal; James C., of Van Buren township; Frank, who married Nannie M. Davis; Jennie, deceased, who was the wife of M. H. Shively, and the mother of two boys, Tolo and Harry; Kate, the wife of Paul Rothlesberger; Ella, who married Walter McGuire, and has one son, Harold; George, who married Eliza Meyer, and has three children, Hester, Isabelle and Irene; Walter, who married Irene Pittinger, and has two sons, Roy and an infant. The father of these children died on the old home place in Richland county in 1898, his wife having passed away during the winter of 1895.

James C. Robinson spent his boyhood days on his father's farm in Richland county, Ohio, and attended the common schools of his home neighborhood. He went to Hancock county in 1883, where he worked on a farm until 1889, in which year he married and located at Townwood, Putnam county, where he worked for years in a saw-mill. He then began to farm for himself the tract of land where he is now living and has met with unusual success in his agricultural operations.

James C. Robinson was married in 1889, to Flora L. McClish, who was born in Hancock county, Ohio, June 16, 1864, and is a daughter of Noah Bishop and Louise McClish. Mr. Robinson and his wife are the parents of seven children, all of whom are living at home with the exception of William, who lives in Chicago, and Charles, who died at the age of two. The other five children are Nellie, Paul, James, Waldo and Olive.

James C. Robinson is a stanch Republican, has served in this township as trustee for five terms, and is now completing his tenth year in the office. He has also served on the school board of his township for a number of

years. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Town-wood, and the encampment at Leipsic. Mr. Robinson is a wide-awake man and has taken an active part in the life of the community about him, and is deserving of a place among the representative men of his township and county.

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### JOHN M. CRAWFORD.

Distinct business qualifications, tangible religious conviction and an element of concentration, bring before the reader, in the panorama of the business life of Putnam county, a man, in every sense of the word, competent to advance the best interests of his environs and of his home. John M. Crawford is a fine example of the truth that because a boy is born under unfortunate circumstances, in meager surroundings, it is not necessary for him to become a failure in life. "Old Abe" Lincoln figured many of his mathematical problems on the back of an old shovel by the light of a grease candle light, and he became the benefactor of a great people. Here we find that the elements which entered into the making of a fine business man were the stepping-stones to an achievement that has doled out to an appreciative community many deeds for the advancement of not only his, but the interests of others as well, where sound business judgment, practical common-sense and aggressiveness are the prime factors in the building of a county. Mindful of the needs of his fellow men, Mr. Crawford was well qualified to become a leader, not only in the financial, but also in the business, social and religious affairs of his community as well.

John M. Crawford was born in Delaware county, Ohio, on November 2, 1841, and was the son of Calvin C. and Elizabeth (Martin) Crawford, both of whom were natives of Marion county, Ohio. Calvin Crawford was born in 1818 and his wife in 1820. They were married in Marion county in 1839, and, after living a few years in Delaware county, they moved, in 1849, to Brown county, Illinois. Calvin Crawford died in Illinois in 1850. He and his wife were the parents of six children, and the young mother had the care and responsibility of this large family, but found great consolation in the aid and help of her son, John, who remained true to his post of duty in helping care for the family until about the age of twenty.

John M. Crawford was one of eight children: One son and a daughter who died in infancy; William H., who enlisted in the Tenth Ohio Cavalry and who died in St. Louis; Dewitt C., who was for many years a resident

of Henry county and who died in September, 1910; Lawrence L., of Colorado; Mrs. Dorcas Martin, of Napoleon, and Mrs. Alletta Russell, of Liberty Center. The last three children were living at the time of John M. Crawford's death, May 22, 1911. At the time of his death Mr. Crawford was sixty-nine years, six months and twenty days old.

John M. Crawford was married on September 15, 1861, to Sarah A. Martin, the daughter of Rev. Wilson Martin. Four children were born to this marriage: William L., deceased; Minnie E., the wife of Mr. Light; Della E., who married E. E. McLaughlin, of Denver, Colorado, and Wilson M., of Columbus Grove.

John M. Crawford spent his early married life in Henry county, where he cleared a farm of sixty-five acres, which was his first business undertaking. He later moved to Columbus Grove and lived there for the last thirty-nine years of his life. Mr. Crawford possessed business qualifications of a high order. His early training and close application to business, despite his meager education, eminently fitted him for a most successful business career. By close application and careful management, he became one of the most successful merchants and bankers of Putnam county. Mr. Crawford rented his farm in 1872 and removed to Columbus Grove, where he engaged in the dry goods business with Wilson Martin and Joseph Justice, under the firm name of W. Martin & Company. Six months later Mr. Martin withdrew and Messrs. Crawford and Justice continued the business for one year, when they traded the business to T. M. Day. Mr. Crawford then engaged in the grocery and bakery business in Columbus Grove and was in that for one year. He next engaged in the livery business for about three months, after which he entered the drug business, in which he continued for about ten years. He entered the hardware business in partnership with George Arnold in 1880, who was succeeded by John Light about nine months later. About a year and a half after this Mr. Light was succeeded by D. M. Foltz, and the firm of Crawford & Foltz continued for about seven years. At the expiration of this time, or in 1890, Mr. Crawford sold out to Mr. Foltz, and one month later he purchased the hardware stock of Norris Killen. Mr. Crawford was engaged in the saw-mill business with G. S. Gander, under the firm name of Crawford & Company, for seven years. This firm owned and operated mills at Columbus Grove, Ottawa, Avis and Pandora. In 1894, Mr. Crawford purchased an interest in the pine lumber business in Columbus Grove, the firm being Palmer & Crawford. In June, 1895, Mr. Crawford purchased the Columbus Grove machine shops, and on Septem-

ber 7, 1895, he purchased an interest in the Exchange Bank of Columbus Grove, with W. Martin as vice-president.

At the age of thirty-six John M. Crawford became a member of the United Brethren church, under the pastorate of Reverend Eastman. He later became a member of the Methodist church, in which his wife was affiliated. For many years he was a member of the official board of the Methodist church. He was wise in counsel and liberal in financial support. He was a constant reader, not only of church periodicals, but sermons of John Wesley, Dwight L. Moody, Spurgeon, Bishop Simpson, L. A. Bants and Evangelist John McNeal. Perhaps no man in Columbus Grove spent more time in reading such literature during the latter years of his life than did Mr. Crawford. During the last five months of his life he was a constant sufferer, yet bore it without murmur or complaint.

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#### WILLIAM A. BEUTLER.

In the history of Leipsic, Ohio, the name of William A. Beutler occupies a conspicuous place for veracity, integrity and thrift. During a number of years he has been the agent for the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad in this town. Mr. Beutler is one of the city's progressive, enterprising and persevering citizens. Such qualities always win success sooner or later and to Mr. Beutler they have brought a satisfactory reward for his well-directed efforts. While he has benefited himself and the community, in a general way, he has also been an influential factor in the moral, educational and social progress of the community.

William A. Beutler was born on November 12, 1882, in Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Christian and Elizabeth (Fipp) Beutler, whose life histories are contained elsewhere in this volume. Mr. Beutler grew up in Ottawa and there spent his boyhood days. He received a good common school education and spent two years in the Ottawa high school. He quit school two years before graduating and began working for the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad at Ottawa. He was first freight clerk and later a telegraph operator, at which latter position he worked for about seven and one-half years. From this position he was promoted to agent for the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railroad Company at Leipsic. Here he has been stationed for the past nine years, or since 1906. He is now station agent, freight agent and operator.

William A. Beutler was married on September 28, 1904, to Martha Altekrause, the daughter of William and Theresa (Altekrause) Altekrause. To this union three children have been born, Wilfred, Louise and Karl. Mr. Beutler is a Democrat. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus at Ottawa and Catholic Knights of Ohio, of Leipsic, and has been president of this order for the past two years. Mr. Beutler is also a member of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, with which he has been identified for ten years. He and his wife and family are members of the St. Mary's Catholic church at Leipsic.

William A. Beutler is a booster for the town in which he lives, and, although his work confines him closely to his post of duty, he is known as a promoter of the public good. He is well-liked by the people of Leipsic and vicinity and has a most pleasing personality.

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#### FRANK B. HERMILLER.

Some of the richest land in Putnam county, Ohio, at one time was so thoroughly covered with water and brush and appeared in such confusion that the land beneath seemed too poor to cultivate. Those who had the energy to clear and drain this land now possess some of the finest farms in Putnam county. Among the many prosperous and progressive farmers of this county who have acquired some of this land, which a generation ago looked hopeless, is Frank B. Hermiller.

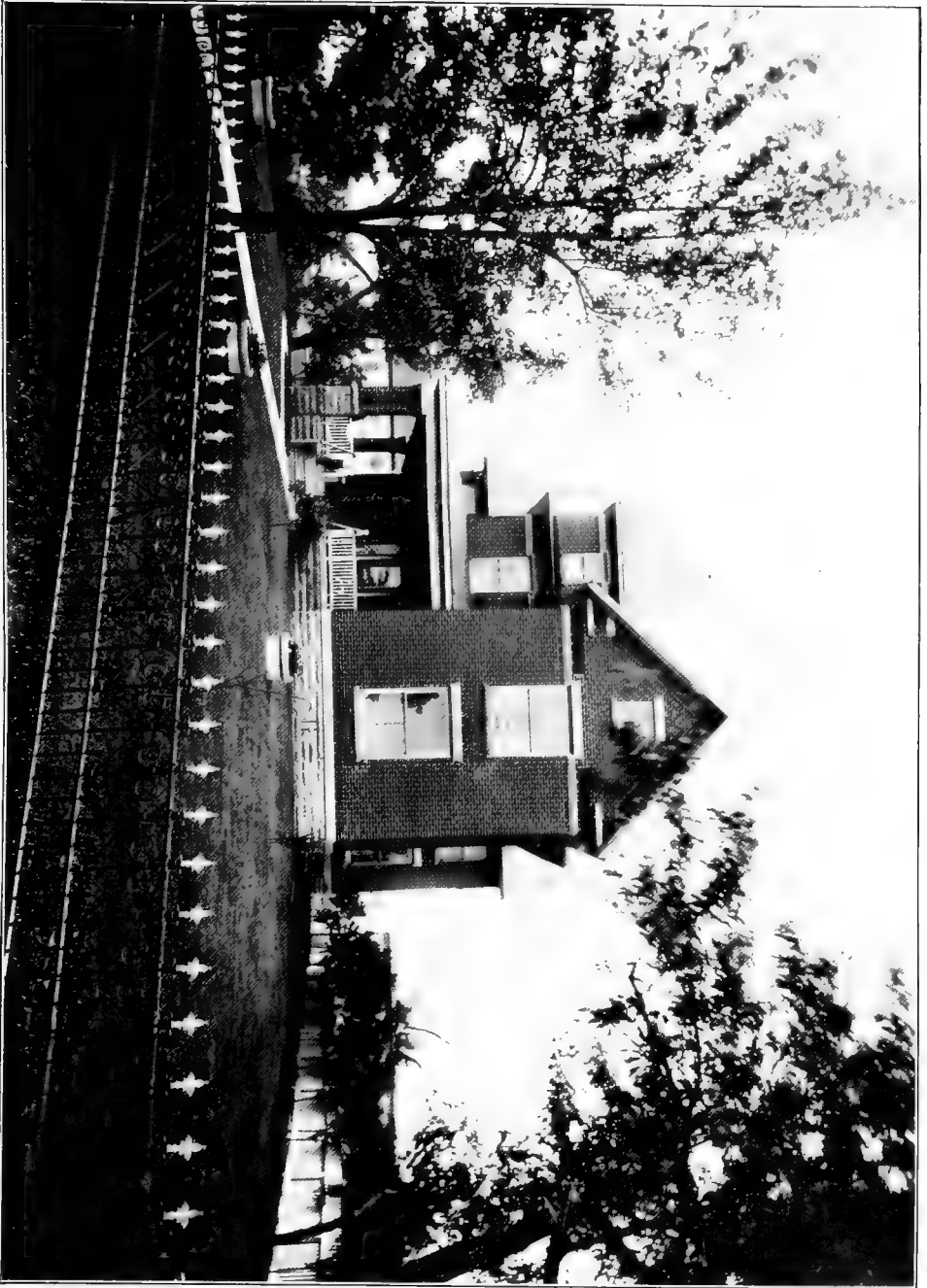
Frank B. Hermiller was born on April 22, 1865, southeast of Ottawa, in Ottawa township. He is a son of Bernard and Bernardina (Nadler) Hermiller. Bernard Hermiller was born near Glandorf, in Hanover, Germany, and lived there until twenty-eight years of age. He came to America about 1850, locating first in Brooklyn, New York, where he was employed in a sugar refinery. He began working for thirty-eight cents a day, and thought this was good pay. He remained nine years at this one place, and when he left there, was receiving sixty cents a day. In New York he was married to Bernardina Nadler, a native of his home district, near Glandorf, Germany. He moved to Putnam county, Ohio, in the early sixties, and purchased one hundred and forty acres of land southwest of Ottawa. This land was all in woods, except five acres, and had only an old log house on it, in the way of improvements. The former occupant moved off the place to higher land north of Ottawa to escape the surface water on the land. This





MR. AND MRS. FRANK B. HERMILLER.





RESIDENCE OF FRANK B. HECHLER.



gave Mr. Hermiller fine land when it was cleared and drained. He afterward purchased two other farms, one consisting of eighty and the other of one hundred acres. He farmed here the rest of his life, and died in June, 1884. His wife died at the age of eighty-three, November 10, 1910.

Frank B. Hermiller was one of seven children. He grew up on the home farm and, in April, 1890, was married to Mary Bloemer. She was born in the Province of Hanover, Germany, and is a daughter of Bernard and Josephine (Kenkal) Bloemer.

Bernard Bloemer and his family, at that time, consisting of two children, Johanna and Mary, left Germany and came to America about forty-seven years ago and settled on a farm in Ottawa township, Putnam county, on a farm. They lived there for eight years and then moved to a farm which he purchased in Jennings township, consisting of one hundred and eighteen acres. He erected a number of splendid buildings. Five children were born to Bernard and Josephine (Kenkal) Bloemer in this county, and three were born in Germany, Johanna, who died in Germany; Mary, Johanna, Elizabeth, Anna, Bernard, deceased; Christina, and Emma, deceased. Mr. Bloemer and wife lived on their farm until their death. He died on April 13, 1914. His wife died on January 12, 1915. They belonged to the Christian church at Ft. Jennings and were highly esteemed for their many fine qualities.

Frank B. Hermiller has farmed ever since his marriage in the locality where he was born and reared. He built a splendid brick residence on the Pandora road, southeast of Ottawa, overlooking the Blanchard river, in 1807. He is the owner of one hundred and sixty-eight acres of land, all in one body, also sixty-three acres near Miller City. His house is thoroughly modern, and is equipped with a private lighting plant, a furnace, and all other modern conveniences. It is also very well furnished.

Frank B. Hermiller and wife are the parents of four children, Edward, at home; Emma, the wife of Harry Kahle, lives in Ottawa, and is the mother of one daughter, Alice Rosemary; Frank, a student in the high school, and Mary Josephine, living at home.

Frank B. Hermiller and family are devout members of the Catholic church at Ottawa. Mr. Hermiller is a progressive farmer of an affable disposition, and is clear-minded and strong-hearted. He is one of those men who always knows just what he is going to do and how he is going to do it. He is methodical, precise, and exact in everything that he does, a man who has been able to translate brains into the business of farming. Mrs.

Hermiller is a charming woman of gracious manner, kind and hospitable. She is very intelligent and has proved a loyal and helpful wife, who has contributed much to his success.

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GEORGE I. BEST.

Among the comfortably situated retired farmers of Putnam county, few are better known, or more generally popular, than the genial George I. Best, of Columbus Grove, to a brief sketch of whose career the biographer here engages the attention of the reader of this comprehensive history of this county, a compilation which would not be complete without fitting reference to the gentleman whose name serves as the caption of this particular bit of biography.

George I. Best was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, May 4, 1847, the son of George and Hannah (Sneary) Best, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, but who had lived in Ohio from the days of their childhood.

George Best, father of George I., came to Ohio from Pennsylvania with his parents when a lad and grew up in Tuscarawas county, where he received the benefits of the excellent schools of that county and where he learned, under his father's direction, the general principles of agriculture, his father having been a successful farmer of that county. He married in that county and, about the year 1851, when George I. was but three years old or thereabout, moved to Putnam county, settling in Union township, where he bought a farm of eighty acres, on which he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in the year 1865, when he was sixty-five years of age. George Best's wife, the mother of George I., who also was born in the Keystone state, became a resident of Ohio at an early age, having moved with her parents to Tuscarawas county, when she was a little girl. There she grew to womanhood, enjoying the educational advantages of the district schools, and there she married George Best, whom she made a faithful and competent helpmate, and whom she survived many years, her death not occurring until the year 1881.

George and Hannah (Sneary) Best were the parents of ten children, James, David, Catherine, Elizabeth, George I., Sarah Jane, John, William, Jacob and Ella. Of these there are now surviving but three, Mrs. Elizabeth Stevens, who lives at Kalida, this county; George I., the immediate subject of this sketch, and Jacob, who also lives at Kalida.

George I. Best grew up on his father's farm in Union township, receiving

his education in the district school in his neighborhood and a careful training in the rudiments of farming under his father's thoughtful direction. On March 2, 1871, he was united in marriage to Rosetta Norton, a native of Putnam county, who was born on July 14, 1849, the daughter of John and Elizabeth (McDowell) Norton, well-known residents of this county. For further details of the Norton family, the reader is referred to the interesting biographical sketch presented on another page of this volume, relating to B. Burgess, whose deceased wife was a sister of Mrs. Best.

To George I. and Rosetta (Norton) Best were born eight children, Harry is a successful farmer living in Monroe township, Allen county; Herbert, who also lives in Allen county; Maude, who married Oliver Logan, lives in Bodkins, Ohio, and has one child, a daughter, Irene; Mina, who married Charles Reeder, a farmer of Pleasant township, this county, and has two children, Herbert and Leon; Eva, who died young; Orpha, who married Louis Zimmerman, of Lima, Ohio, and has one child, a daughter, Esther. Besides the foregoing there were two of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Best, who died in infancy.

George I. Best has attained his present comfortable station in life by gradual degrees, it being the exact truth to say of him that he is a self-made man in all that much-abused term implies. He remained on the home farm assisting his father until he was twenty years of age, when he started out "on his own hook," working on neighboring farms for about three years, at the end of which time he married and rented the Judge Skinner farm on which he remained for six years, tilling the same with such success that, at the end of that time, he was able to purchase a farm of forty acres in Union township, this county, on which he lived for four years, this venture also proving successful, and at the end of that time he sold the Union township farm and bought a farm of eighty acres in Allen county, on which he lived for about twenty-two years, at the end of which time, in the year 1903, he sold this farm and moved to Columbus Grove, this county, where he since has lived in comfortable retirement, enjoying the confidence and respect of a large circle of friends and acquaintances, his home being one of the pleasantest and most hospitable in the town of Columbus Grove.

In addition to the vocation of general farming, which Mr. Best made the principal business of his life for so many years, he also gave much attention to the breeding of fine horses. He always has been a lover of horses and has a more than local reputation as a good judge of horse flesh, and his breeding stables in Allen county, for many years were popular among the farmers throughout that section. Since moving to Columbus Grove, Mr.

Best has maintained an excellent breeding stable there, the quality of the service extended recommending them highly to the consideration of the farmers hereabout.

George I. Best is a Democrat and gives such attention to the political affairs of the county as is the duty of all good citizens, but has never been included in the office-seeking class, preferring to concentrate his attention upon his own personal affairs, though his judgments in political matters are regarded as sound and his counsels along these lines carry no small weight among the local party managers. Mr. Best and wife are members of the Christian church at Columbus Grove, Mr. Best having served the congregation of that church in the capacity of a deacon, for some time past. He and Mrs. Best are active participants in the local beneficences of the church and are likewise interested in all movements looking to the general welfare of the community in which they are so well liked, the geniality and friendliness of their manners having made them popular with all with whom they come in contact.

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#### JESSE N. HEISCHMAN, D. V. S.

Science has taken hold not only of business but of all professions as well and veterinary surgery is no exception. The practice of this profession is regulated by law in most states and elaborate courses of instruction must be followed, before the practice is permitted. Jesse N. Heischman, D. V. S., a veterinary surgeon of Columbus Grove, Putnam county, Ohio, entered his profession, well-equipped in every respect. Not only are his professional attainments superior, but he is personally popular throughout Putnam county and has always enjoyed a large and lucrative practice.

Jesse N. Heischman, D. V. S., is the son of a well-known physician and veterinarian, now deceased, and was born on April 27, 1872, in Franklin county, Ohio. His parents were Theodore and Melissa (Smith) Heischman. Theodore Heischman, M. D., D. V. S., was born in Franklin county, Ohio, in 1848, and was the son of John Heischman, who was born in Virginia and who came to Franklin county, Ohio, where, for some time, he was a farmer. Later, John Heischman came to Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, and settled on a farm close to North creek, where he farmed one hundred and sixty acres of land, until his death. Theodore Heischman grew up in Franklin county, Ohio, where he received his early education. He was trained for veterinary surgery at Ohio State University and for the practice of general

medicine at the Chicago School of Medicine and practiced both in different parts of Franklin county. He practiced medicine at Bucyrus and Defiance, Ohio, and later, went west to Ft. Scott, Kansas, where he practiced veterinary surgery for some time. Returning to Putnam county, he farmed in Palmer township until a short time before his death, in 1892, at the age of forty-five. He died of lung trouble of which he had failed to gain relief on his trip to the West. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Melissa Smith, was born in Licking county, Ohio, November 25, 1844, and died in 1903. She was the daughter of Archibald and Mary (Beach) Smith.

Theodore and Melissa (Smith) Heischman were the parents of four children, Dr. Jesse N., twin sisters who died in infancy, and Homer, who lives at Findlay, Ohio. Theodore Heischman, M. D., D. V. S., was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias at Bucyrus, and a Democrat in politics.

Jesse N. Heischman was reared in Franklin county, Ohio, where he lived until ten years of age, when he removed, with his parents, to Bucyrus, Ohio. His early education was received at Bucyrus and Defiance. He accompanied his father on his trip to Ft. Scott, Kansas, and returned with him to Palmer township, Putnam county.

Doctor Heischman was married on May 11, 1892, to Catherine Beck, the daughter of Jacob and Barbara (Etchen) Beck, the former of whom was born on August 18, 1829, in Bavaria, and who died on August 9, 1899. His wife was born on December 1, 1836, and died on July 6, 1905. Jacob Beck and wife had thirteen children, Frank, born on July 11, 1854; John, January 6, 1856; Nicholas, died in infancy; Jane, October 6, 1860; Mary, April 30, 1862, died in August, 1906; Clara, March 12, 1863; Nathaniel Joseph, November 8, 1865; William A., September 6, 1867; Catherine, the wife of Dr. Heischman; Elizabeth, October 16, 1871; Louise M., February 4, 1874; Henry L., March 20, 1878, and Albert J., June 9, 1882, died in September of the same year.

Mrs. Jesse N. Heischman was born on November 13, 1869. She has been the mother of four children, Ruth Hazel, born on May 3, 1893, who married N. S. Robbins and lives in Van Buren, Ohio; Russell Newton, July 3, 1895; Barbara Jane, December 3, 1899, and John Theodore, September 21, 1904.

Jesse N. Heischman, D. V. S., attended the veterinary college, at Toronto, Canada, but did not graduate there. He finished his work at Grand Rapids Veterinary College, at Grand Rapids, Michigan, with the class of 1900. He also took a course in veterinary dental work at the Ontario Col-

lege, at Toronto, and finished this course in 1893. Doctor Heischman is a registered doctor of veterinary surgery in both Ohio and Michigan. After finishing his course, in 1893, he came to Continental, Ohio, where he practiced for five years. After graduation from the Grand Rapids school, he returned to Columbus Grove and began practice. He is the only veterinarian in this vicinity and has a lucrative practice. He is considered one of the most successful veterinarians in this section of Ohio.

Jesse N. Heischman, D. V. S., is a member of the Knights of Pythias at Continental. He served as mayor of Columbus Grove for two terms, from 1906 to 1910, and is the present health officer for the corporation as well as the humane officer. He is a Democrat and, throughout his life, has been active in behalf of his party. He is, however, a booster for all civic improvements, regardless of party. He is now the Putnam county representative for the Indiana and Ohio Live Stock Insurance Agency and patentee of the Heischman Colic Cure, a remedy which is famous for its results and which has a large sale. Doctor Heischman is no longer interested, financially, in this remedy, having sold his interest to outside parties.

Doctor Heischman is a man of splendid approach, likeable and congenial, well spoken of, of pleasing personality and bears an excellent reputation in his community.

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#### WARREN C. DRAPER.

Warren C. Draper was born on January 2, 1853, in Summit county, Ohio. He is a son of Warren Luke and Louisa (Savacole) Draper. Warren Luke Draper was born on October 6, 1823, in Washington county, New York. He was a son of Moses and Sabrina Draper, who were natives of Washington county, New York. Moses Draper and wife came to Ohio about 1829, and settled at Hudson, Summit county, and here they reared a family of nine children, eight sons and one daughter. Warren Luke Draper was the second child. Moses Draper and wife spent the remainder of their lives in Summit county. Warren Luke grew up on the old homestead and was married, in Summit county, to Louisa Savacole, the daughter of Samuel and Sarah Savacole, who were pioneer settlers in Summit county, Ohio.

When about thirty years old, Warren Luke Draper removed to Hancock county, Ohio, where he purchased a farm in Allen township, five miles northeast of Findlay. He was the owner of one hundred and eighty acres and was a prosperous farmer and stock dealer. He and his wife were the parents of three sons and three daughters: Sarah Ann, the wife of



Eli W. Pepple; Warren C., the immediate subject of this review; Salina Elizabeth, the wife of Sanford Lemon; James Edward, who married Lela Lepper; Martha J., the wife of Armenius King, and Charles, who died at the age of one and one-half years.

Warren C. Draper grew to manhood in Hancock county, and remained on the home farm until he was twenty years of age. He was first married on December 23, 1876, at the age of twenty-three, to Myra Jane Hosler, the daughter of John and Isabel Hosler, who were pioneers of Hancock county, and who came from York county, Pennsylvania, in an early day.

After his marriage Mr. Draper lived for four years near Arcadia, in Hancock county, Ohio, and then removed, in the spring of 1881, to Blanchard township, Putnam county, three miles northeast of Gilboa, where he purchased eighty acres of land, only twenty acres of which were partially cleared. Since this time he has cleared the remainder of the farm and has surrounded himself with substantial improvements. He has always made a specialty of raising high grade live stock, and has been very successful as a farmer.

By his first marriage, Mr. Draper had four children, Charles, Belle, Harry and Bernice. Charles resides in Leipsic, Ohio. He married Edith Tafflinger, and they have three sons, James, John and Richard. Belle is the wife of Frank Miller and resides at Tiffin, Ohio. Harry H. married Edna Wight, and they reside at Lewiston, Montana. They were the parents of one child who died in infancy. Bernice is unmarried, and at present is attending the academy at Tiffin, Ohio. Mrs. Draper died on August 8, 1908, and on June 6, 1911, Mr. Draper married Mrs. Malissa Slosser, of Toledo, Ohio, a sister of his first wife. She lived only eight months after her marriage and died on February 6, 1912.

Warren C. Draper's father, Warren L. Draper, was married the second time, to Hannah King, the daughter of John King and wife, and to this union were born two daughters, Emma, who became the wife of a Mr. Russell, of Minerva, Ohio, and Belle, the wife of George Burrell, of Continental, Ohio.

Mr. Draper is a Republican. He has been influential in the educational circles of his township for many years, and has served as a member of the school board. Throughout his life he has been an active member of the United Brethren church, and a trustee in this denomination.

Warren C. Draper is a man highly respected by the citizens of his community, and is known as an enterprising farmer, a good neighbor and a kind and considerate father.

## BENJAMIN F. ECK.

Many farmers owe their success to a steady determination formed early in their careers. Where industry is required they are not afraid of toil; where economy is necessary they do not hesitate to practice frugality; where careful management seems the keynote to affluence, they are painstaking in their attention to details. Benjamin F. Eck, of Riley township, is a successful farmer, because he has strictly adhered to the principles which, if strictly followed, insure success. He is one of those men who are able to identify their ancestors with one of the earliest wars fought by this country when the country still wore its swaddling clothes. Frederick Eck was a soldier in the War of 1812 and during his service in this war, came to northwestern Ohio as an Indian scout.

Benjamin F. Eck was born on May 8, 1872, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Benjamin and Catherine Ellen (Sanderlin) Eck. Benjamin Eck was born in Richland county, Ohio, on January 23, 1827, the son of Frederick and Nancy (Newcomer) Eck. Frederick Eck was born in Pennsylvania, about 1788, and died at the age of eighty-eight, in 1876, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio.

It was Frederick Eck, who, as a young man, enlisted in the War of 1812 and, during his services as a soldier, came West as an Indian spy. On this trip, Frederick Eck had ample opportunity to observe the new country and it was then that he resolved to cast his lot with this frontier country. After the war, he returned to Pennsylvania and was married in Franklin county, of that state. Thereupon he moved to Richland county, Ohio, and there he settled. But he remained there only a few years, coming to Putnam county in 1835. It was in Richland county, however, that his children were born. There were seven of them, five sons and two daughters, one daughter dying in infancy. Benjamin Eck, Sr., the father of Benjamin F., was next to the youngest child.

After coming to Putnam county, in 1835, Frederick Eck lived in a cabin on the farm of Samuel Hall, just east of Gilboa, until the following spring. Some time before bringing his family, he made a trip from Richland to Putnam county and entered forty acres of land in section 1, of Riley township. Benjamin F. Eck, Jr., still has the deed made out at this time for this land. The deed was dated on October 7, 1835, and is signed by Andrew Jackson, then president of the United States. The following spring, Frederick Eck moved his little family to their new home where he had built a cabin during the winter and it was on this old homestead that the children

grew to maturity. In addition to this forty acres, Frederick Eck purchased eighty acres adjoining the original homestead on the south, giving him one hundred and twenty acres in all. This eighty-acre tract was purchased on January 11, 1849.

Frederick Eck was a Democrat and served as road supervisor for several years. His grandson, Benjamin F. Eck, has a collection of receipts, and other interesting papers, pertaining to his office. One is a receipt issued to John Smothers, October 1, 1841, for labor performed in Riley township, the value of which, as indicated on the receipt, was nine cents and six mills.

It was on this old homestead that Benjamin Eck, Sr., spent his childhood. Here he has lived ever since. He passed through all of the pioneer experiences common to his day and generation and is now eighty-eight years old. He distinctly remembers when the Indians roamed this part of the country and when he cut rails in the water. The compensation for splitting rails in those days was forty cents a hundred. Benjamin Eck had to go many miles, in those days, to mill.

Benjamin F. Eck, Sr., was married on August 28, 1856, in Wood county, Ohio, to Catherine Ellen Sanderlin, who was born on September 18, 1836, at Covington, Kentucky. She was the daughter of Thomas and Rebecca (Seaton) Sanderlin. After their marriage, they took up their residence on the old homestead, where they have since resided. Mrs. Eck died in November, 1902. She was the mother of five children, Mary Isabelle, born on June 14, 1857; Eliza Amanda, March 18, 1859; Rebecca Ellen, March 14, 1870; Benjamin F., the subject of this sketch, and William Noah, March 30, 1874. All lived to maturity but all are now deceased with the exception of Benjamin F.

Benjamin F. Eck, like his father, grew up on the old homestead of his grandfather. He attended two terms at the old Webster district school and then attended the old No. 1 district school. After finishing school, he worked out for two or three years, and then returned home to take charge of the home place, which he farmed for several years.

At the age of twenty-six, Benjamin F. Eck, Jr., was married on November 25, 1897, to Effie May Spitter, who was born on March 26, 1874, in Hancock county. She is the daughter of George F. and Kezia (Snyder) Spitter, both natives of Fairfield county. George F. Spitter's father was a native of Pennsylvania and his wife's father was a native of Fairfield county.

After his marriage, Mr. Eck continued to farm the old home place, which has been his residence up to the present time. He and his wife have been the parents of nine children, George F., born on September 3, 1898;

Kezia C., November 3, 1899; Elsie V., January 1, 1901; May M., August 28, 1902; Nellie F., February 18, 1904; Doris L., November 20, 1905; Jacob A., March 22, 1908; Wilbur H., January 20, 1910, and Clarence F., April 9, 1912.

Benjamin F. Eck is a Democrat. He is one of Riley township's substantial citizens and, having come from an old pioneer family, is well and favorably known in Riley township and, in fact, throughout Putnam county. He is a man who well merits the esteem and confidence placed in him by his fellow citizens.

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### ORVILLE V. TODD.

Among the families of Putnam county, Ohio, whose members have worthily discharged their duties to their fellows and to their community, no family takes higher rank than the Todds, who are today prominently identified with the business and social life of Putnam county. For many years the members of this family have stood for all that is best in business, educational, moral and social life, and they have wielded an influence that is potential in the development and welfare of their community. The members of the Todd family are numbered among the enterprising and progressive citizens of the county because of the prominence which the family has enjoyed and the close relations they have sustained to the welfare and prosperity of the locality which has been honored by their citizenship. They are, therefore, eminently entitled to representation in a work of this character.

Orville V. Todd, one of the younger representatives of the Todd family and the cashier of the Gilboa Banking Company, was born on December 23, 1869, in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, the son of Joel and Eveline (Vaughn) Todd. The family history of Eveline Vaughn may be found in the life story of John W. Hixon, contained elsewhere in this volume.

Joel Todd was born in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, on October 16, 1845, the son of Levi and Margaret (Bosler) Todd. Levi Todd was born in Fairfield county, the son of Samuel Todd and wife, both of whom came from Pennsylvania in pioneer times and settled in Fairfield county, Ohio.

In those pioneer times before the railroads were built, Samuel Todd drove a six-horse freight team from Harrisburg to Baltimore. He hauled grain to the seaboard and brought merchandise on return trips. It is related that these teams were driven without lines, much as oxen were driven,

the driver riding a saddle-horse on the near side of the wheel horses. After coming to Fairfield county, Ohio, where his son, Levi, was born, the latter took up the work which his father had followed in Pennsylvania, except that he drove from Harrisburg west to Pittsburgh, and on to western Ohio, coming as far as Findlay and Fostoria. Samuel Todd moved from Fairfield county to the northwestern part of Blanchard township, Putnam county, about two miles south of the present city of Leipsic. Here he spent the remainder of his days.

Levi Todd came from Findlay to Blanchard township and entered eighty acres of land three and one-half miles northeast of Ottawa. Here he remained until the eighties, when he sold out and moved to two and one-half miles south of Leipsic, which farm he finally sold and after its sale retired, spending his declining years with his children. It was at the home of one of his daughters, Mrs. Catherine Smith, of Syracuse, Kansas, that he died about 1897.

Joel Todd spent his boyhood in Blanchard township, Putnam county, and here he attended the common schools, also helping his father on the farm until twenty-three years of age. At this time he was married to Eveline Vaughn in 1868. She was the daughter of John and Johanna (Shriner) Vaughn. After their marriage, Joel Todd began farming for himself four and one-half miles southeast of Leipsic, on a part of the Vaughn estate. He and his wife still live on the farm, to which they moved after their marriage, forty-five years ago. They have been the parents of four children: Orville V., the subject of this sketch; Angie, who died at the age of two years and six months; Arlowa and Franville H. Arlowa is the wife of A. C. Bracy and lives three miles north of Gilboa. They have three children, Cloyd, Delia and Lena, all of whom are at home. Granville H., who died on November 26, 1910, married Constance Young, of Pocatello, Idaho, and lived only four months after his marriage.

Orville V. Todd spent his boyhood in Blanchard township and there attended the country schools until sixteen years of age. He then became a student of the high school, conducted in connection with Crawfis College, where he graduated with the class of 1884. Subsequently, he attended Otterbein University, where he took a special normal course. For fourteen years he was engaged in teaching, first in the country, and finally in Leipsic. Still later he became superintendent of the schools at Bellmore.

After serving fourteen years as a teacher, Mr. Todd took a course in business at the Lima Business College and then took up commercial work for different concerns. On July 2, 1909, he was elected cashier of the Gil-

boa Banking Company, which position he now holds. He was elected to the directorate of this bank in the summer of 1912.

Orville V. Todd was married, at the age of twenty-nine, to Alice Elwell, of Columbus Grove, Ohio. She is the daughter of Hiram and Mary Jane (Ketchum) Elwell. One child, Leslie, has been born to this union.

Orville V. Todd is a Republican. He has been honored with different local offices in the community, all of which he has filled with credit to himself and to the people who elected him. Mr. Todd is a member of Ottawa Lodge No. 325, Free and Accepted Masons, and Gilboa Lodge No. 459, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. and Mrs. Todd are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mr. Todd is treasurer.

Not only is Orville V. Todd prominent in the business life of this section of Putnam county, but he and his wife are prominent socially in the community. He is an alert, up-to-date citizen, and is held in high esteem by his business associates and by the community of which he has become so important a factor.

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#### CHRISTIAN BEUTLER.

To come to a new country from a foreign land as a fatherless boy of seventeen, and by sheer pluck and courage and wisdom and judgment to rise to the position of clerk of the courts of the county in which he lives, and to so administer the affairs of that office as to insure a triumphant reelection, to be honored by his fellow citizens by elevation to other positions of public trust and responsibility and to make for himself a place in the community second to none in his county, surely is an achievement that properly merits praise, and it is a pleasure for the biographer here to present in the history of Putnam county a brief review of the life in which these achievements are comprised.

Christian Beutler, former clerk of the courts of Putnam county, was born in the republic of Switzerland in the year 1854, the son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Schideggar) Beutler, the former of whom died when Christian was eleven years of age. The mother and her five fatherless children came to America and located at Upper Sandusky, Ohio, in 1871, where the boy Christian "worked out" for about five years, and then, in 1877, came to Ottawa, Putnam county, where he and Joseph Meyer engaged in brick-making, their first kiln being erected on the west side of the Blanchard river, near Glandorf, where they remained for four or five years, the industry

thriving. At the end of that time, the brick yard was moved to the north end of Ottawa and Mr. Beutler continued in this business, at that point, until the year 1905, when he discontinued the brick-making business. In the meantime, he had been making good investment of the proceeds of his brick-making industry, in 1897, having bought fifty-five acres of land inside the city limits at the north edge of Ottawa and forty-four acres about two and one-half miles northeast of Ottawa, to which he has given his close personal attention to the management of these farms ever since.

During all this time, Mr. Beutler's engaging personality was bringing him to the close attention of the people of his county, and it was not long until he was one of the best-known and most popular men in the county. He had allied himself with the Democratic party upon reaching manhood's estate, and had taken a close interest in the affairs of his party during the various local campaigns in Putnam county. When his party, therefore, nominated him for the important position of clerk of the courts of the county, in 1894, his election was taken as a foregone conclusion. His administration of the affairs of this office proved so admirable that he was re-elected in 1897 and served his county in this capacity for a period of six years. In other public affairs, Mr. Beutler also took a warm interest and for six years served the public very acceptably as township clerk, while for sixteen years he served as a member of the town council of Ottawa, his acts in this connection always having the public welfare as their inspiration.

Christian Beutler has been married twice, his first marriage taking place in 1881, when he was united to Miss Elizabeth Fipp, the daughter of John and Mary Fipp, both of whom were natives of Germany, and the latter of whom was a well-known mill operator at Ottawa, this county. To this first union, seven children were born, William A., who lives in Leipsic, this county, married Martha Altekruise and has three children, Wilfred, Louise and Carl; Christian J., who died at the age of nineteen; Alexander G., who died at the age of seventeen; Elmer S., who lives in Ottawa, married Adeline Eberly and has two children, Norma and Sylvester John; Joseph, who remains at home; Louis F., who resides in Detroit, Michigan, and Florence G., who is residing at home. The mother of these children died in 1900.

In the year 1902, Mr. Beutler married, secondly, Miss Caroline Kessler, who was born in Coshocton, Ohio, the daughter of Louis and Mary (Wupler) Kessler, who had moved to this county when Caroline was a little girl and located on a farm near Miller City, where they lived until her father was past middle age, when they moved into Miller City and conducted a tavern and

there her father spent the rest of his life. Mrs. Beutler's mother is still living at Miller City.

To Christian and Caroline (Kessler) Beutler four children have been born, Elizabeth M., Martha, Philomena and Lucille, who, with their parents, are members of the Catholic church. Mr. Beutler and wife are devoted to the good works of their parish and to all movements which have as their object the betterment of community conditions and are rightly held in the highest esteem by all their large circle of acquaintances. Mr. Beutler retains a large interest in public affairs and is regarded as one of the most substantial men in the county seat.

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### JOHN G. CONRAD.

Among the many worthy citizens of Continental, Putnam county, Ohio, who have built up comfortable homes and surrounded themselves with valuable property, is John G. Conrad, a well-known butcher of Continental. With few opportunities except what his own efforts were capable of mastering, and with many discouragements to overcome, he has made exceptional success in his chosen occupation, and acquired a substantial competence. He has the gratification also of knowing that the community in which he resides has been benefited by his presence and by his many good works.

John G. Conrad was born on March 30, 1864, at Avon, Lorraine county, Ohio. He is the son of John and Barbara (Rattelsdorfer) Conrad, the former of whom was born in Alsace, Germany, and the latter of whom was born on October 11, 1826, in Oberohendorf, Germany, and who came to America on May 10, 1847, at the age of twenty-one. John and Barbara (Rattelsdorfer) Conrad were married in the fall of 1847, in Cleveland, Ohio. Mrs. Conrad came to this country alone, her parents, Michael and Anna Elizabeth (Zenka) Rattelsdorfer, remaining in Germany. Mrs. Conrad came through from Germany by boat to Cleveland, Ohio, never having ridden on a railroad steam train until the age of sixty-seven. John Conrad, Sr., was sixty-seven years old at the time of his death, having been born in 1833, and having died on December 31, 1890. His wife was eighty-five years of age at the time of her death, having died on December 31, 1911.

John Conrad, Sr., the father of the subject of this sketch, came from Germany to America with his parents. He was the son of John Jacob and



Mary Ann Conrad. They settled at Avon, Ohio, after their arrival and finished their home, partially built, on the land which Mr. Conrad purchased. Here they resided until their death. The elder John Conrad's father, John Jacob Conrad, was a wagon maker, and followed that trade after coming to this country.

To Mr. and Mrs. John Conrad, Sr., nine children were born, Anna Mary, in 1850, died in March, 1912; Josephine, April 18, 1854, died on February 12, 1880; Mary Ann, May 9, 1856, died on May 23, 1865; Anna Francisco, May 9, 1858, died on May 23, 1865; John, May 22, 1860, died on January 7, 1864; Peter, September 12, 1862, lives at Avon, Ohio; John G., March 30, 1864; Anna, April 23, 1867, married Frank Alton and lives at Avon, Ohio; George J., February 12, 1869, lives at Peoria, Illinois.

John G. Conrad was married on November 22, 1887, to Wilhelmina Wagner, who was born on September 7, 1867, at Avon, Ohio, and who is the daughter of John and Treacy (Seibert) Wagner, the former of whom is a native of Germany, and the latter of whom was born at Adrian, Leneway county, Michigan. John Wagner died on June 11, 1911, at the age of seventy-one years and nine months, having been born on September 5, 1839. His wife, who died on May 20, 1880, was thirty-nine years old at the time of her death, having been born in 1841.

To John G. and Wilhelmina (Wagner) Conrad no children have been born. Mr. Conrad left Avon, Ohio, in April, 1887, and purchased property in Continental in May of that year. After coming to Continental he built a hardware store, and ran the same until 1894, when it was destroyed by fire. Two years later he went into the butcher business, and has been in this business since that time. In the beginning he leased the market for three years. Mr. Conrad built a livery barn in 1910 where Continental garage is now located. He operated the livery business for three years, and then traded the livery barn for a farm in Paulding county, Ohio, consisting of eighty-four acres. He still owns this farm. Six months later, however, he began to give his attention to the butcher business again, leasing his market. The building burned, and Mr. Conrad re-entered the business in 1914, and is active at the present time. He has shipped stock for sixteen years, and is more or less active at this time.

John G. Conrad is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, at Defiance, Ohio. He was the second mayor of Continental and served for six years, from 1892 to 1898. He was a member of the town council for six years and corporation treasurer for four years. Mr. Conrad is a Democrat. He was a candidate for sheriff of Putnam county at the last

election, but was defeated by a small margin. He is a member of the Catholic church at Continental. His wife is also a member of this church. Mr. Conrad is a trustee of the church. He is a highly-respected citizen in the community where he lives, and admired for his many good works.

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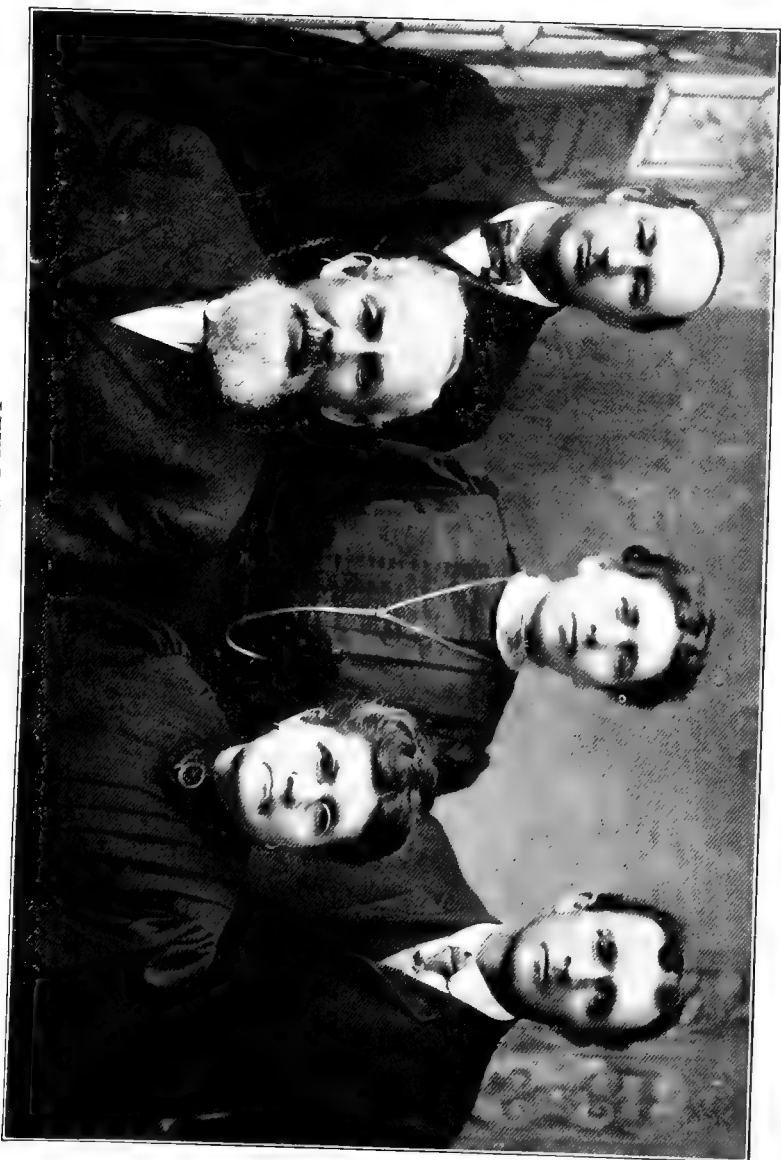
#### LEVI P. HENRY.

For more than forty years Levi P. Henry has been farming in Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio. Born and reared in Fairfield county, Ohio, Mr. Henry taught school in his young manhood, but since coming to this county, in 1873, he has been engaged in general farming and stock raising on his well-improved farm two miles northwest of Leipsic.

Levi P. Henry, the son of Thomas and Margaret S. (Brown) Henry, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on September 9, 1841. Thomas Henry was the son of Levi Henry and wife, natives of eastern Pennsylvania. Thomas Henry was born in Juniata county, Pennsylvania, and when six years of age came with his parents to Fairfield county, Ohio, where he spent the remainder of his life. Early in life, Thomas Henry learned the carpenter trade, and by dint of industry and perseverance earned enough money to buy a farm, and, in 1840, felt that he was able to marry. He married Margaret S. Brown. His wife was the daughter of David Brown, who came from Juniata county, Pennsylvania, to Fairfield county, Ohio, in its early history. David Brown was a soldier in the War of 1812, and thereby earned the right to a soldier's claim. To David Brown and wife were born thirteen children, twelve girls and one boy. Thomas and Margaret Henry were the parents of the following children: Levi P., Martha Ann, James K., Margaret E., William B., Thomas H., David C., Robert P. and John K. Of these children, Thomas H. and David C. were twins.

Levi P. Henry was reared and educated in Fairfield county, Ohio, and after completing his common school education, taught school, beginning before he reached his majority. He continued teaching in the winter and farming during the summer season for several years. After his marriage, in 1867, he began to farm in Fairfield county, but, in 1873, decided to move to Putnam county to make his permanent home. He purchased a farm in Liberty township, and has lived on this same farm since that year. Mr. Henry owns ninety-two acres which his son, Charles T., farms.

Levi P. Henry was married on March 7, 1867, to Jennie M. McCand-



LEVI P. HENRY AND FAMILY.



lish, a daughter of Peter S. and Martha R. (Nagmey) McCandlish. Her father was a native of Scotland and came to Virginia when very young. His wife, Martha Nagmey, was a descendant of Irish parents and born in Mifflin county, Pennsylvania. Mr. Henry and wife are the parents of four children, David C., Charles T., Anna M. and James Harvey. David C. married Zella Ramsey, and after her death, married Minnie Kroeger. To his first marriage there were three children born, one of whom is still living. There are no children to the second marriage. Charles T. married Mahala Neeland, and has three children, Anna M. became the wife of Harry Polsdorfer, and has six children, five of whom are living; James Harvey, the youngest child of Mr. Henry, died in 1895, at the age of fifteen years and nine months.

Levi P. Henry and his wife were formerly members of the United Presbyterian church at West Leipsic, and Mr. Henry was a ruling elder, and superintendent of the Sabbath school of this denomination. A few years ago he and his wife transferred their membership to the Presbyterian church at Leipsic, and to this they now give their hearty support. Mr. Henry is a man of high character, hospitable and courteous and well liked throughout the community where he has spent so many years.

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#### DAVID F. OWENS.

Among those who are eminently entitled to a place in a work of this character is the gentleman whose name heads this paragraph, who has lived in Putnam county for many years and whose name will continue to adorn its annals long after he has passed to his reward. David F. Owens has performed well his part in the drama of civilization and has led a life that is exemplary in every respect. He has set an excellent example for the younger generation, for he has been a leader in his locality in all matters pertaining to its improvement and progress. In a conservative manner, he has done what he could to promote, not only the interests of himself and his family, but the interests of the community as well.

David F. Owens was born on February 1, 1855, in Guernsey county, Ohio, near Cambridge. He is the son of John Beaver and Rachel (Spencer) Owens.

John B. Owens, the father of David F., was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, on January 6, 1816. He grew up in Trumbull county, but later moved

to Guernsey county. He was reared as a farmer, but taught school for many years in Trumbull, Guernsey and Putnam counties. He was a man of unusual intelligence, for his day and generation, and was widely read. John B. Owens was married on March 21, 1847, to Rachel Spencer, who was born in Guernsey county on February 16, 1832, and who was the daughter of John and Eliza (Sevin) Spencer, pioneers of Guernsey county. To this union were born five children, Elizabeth A., who married William T. Fickle, of Monroe township, Putnam county; Emma J., who married William Gillespie; David F., the subject of this sketch; Amanda, who married David Grant, of Continental, Ohio; Ida C., who married Judson Jones, of Palmer township. John B. and Rachel Owens lived in Guernsey county until 1873, when they moved to Putnam county and settled in Monroe township. They owned a splendid eighty-acre farm and were industrious farmers, prominent in church and Sunday school work. John B. Owens died on January 17, 1890, at the age of seventy-three years, and his wife died on March 26, 1895.

The father of John B. Owens was John B. Owens, Sr., a native of Wales, who came to the United States when twenty-eight years of age. He married Elizabeth Strame. After their marriage, they settled in Trumbull county, Ohio. Subsequently, he sold his property in Trumbull county and removed to Guernsey county, and here they lived until their death. John B. Owens, Sr., was a Jacksonian Democrat. He and his wife were members of the Methodist church. John B. Owens, Jr., was active in local politics during his life and served as township clerk and township trustee for several terms. He was a Democrat and prominent in the work of the Methodist church, as well as in the Sunday school.

David F. Owens was nine years old when his parents moved to Putnam county, Ohio. He was educated in the public schools of this township and on February 16, 1879, he was married to Ida M. Gilbert, who was born in Monroe township on September 15, 1863. She is the daughter of Jacob and Martha A. (Butler) Gilbert, well-known pioneers and prominent farmers of Putnam county, referred to elsewhere in this volume.

David F. Owens has one hundred and forty acres of excellent land in Putnam county, which he farmed until 1892, when he moved to Ottawa, Ohio. At this time he was elected county commissioner. He remained in Ottawa for six years, having served as county commissioner during that time. He then moved back to Continental, Ohio, where he now resides. His farming property is rented. Before his election as county commissioner, Mr. Owens had served four terms as assessor, two terms as township trustee

and on the town council. He is not active in politics now although still a staunch Democrat. He is a director in the Farmers Bank at Continental, and, aside from his banking interests, takes an active interest in civic improvement. Mr. Owens is not a member of any church. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias at Continental, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Defiance. He is a man held in high esteem by all who know him, of exceptional ability mentally, an excellent farmer, progressive in spirit and capable in all things, to which he has ever applied himself.

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### GEORGE HUGH SEALL.

In a brief sketch of any living citizen, it is difficult to do him exact and impartial justice, not so much, however, for lack of space or words to set forth the familiar and passing events of his personal history as for the want of perfect and rounded conception of his whole life which grows, develops and ripens like fruit and discloses its best flavor only when it is mellowed by time. Daily contact with a man so familiarizes us with his virtues that we ordinarily overlook them and commonly underestimate their possessor. It is not often that true honor, public or private—that honor which is a tribute of cordial respect and esteem—comes to a man without basis of character or deeds. The world may be deceived by fortune and by ornamental or showy qualities without substantial merit and give to the undeserving a short-lived admiration, but the honor that wise and good men value and that lives beyond the grave, must have its foundation in real worth, for “worth maketh the man.” Not a few men live unheralded and almost unknown beyond the narrow limits of the city or community where their lots are cast, who yet have in them, if fortune had opened to them a wider sphere of life, the elements of character to make statesmen or public benefactors of world-wide fame. Compared with the blazonry of fame, which some regard as the real stamp of greatness, there is a lowlier and simpler, yet truer, standard whereby to judge of them and fix their place in the regard of their fellow men. During a long life in this section of Ohio, George Hugh Seall has given the people of this community an opportunity to know what manner of man he is. The testimony is ample that he is a good citizen in the full sense of the term and worthy of the esteem which has been bestowed upon him.

George Hugh Seall was born in 1850, in Monroe county, Indiana. He is the son of Henry and Margaret (Butler) Seall. Henry Seall was a native

of Monroe county and the son of Steven B. Seall, who came from Pennsylvania to Circleville, Ohio, and thence to Bloomington, Indiana, where he became the first postmaster of that city. Margaret Butler, the mother of George H. Seall, was born in Wythe county, Virginia. She was the daughter of Frederick Trank and Elizabeth (Johnson) Butler, who moved to Bloomington, Indiana, in a wagon, when she was eighteen months old.

Elizabeth Johnson was a sister of Gen. Joseph E. Johnson, of Southern fame. He and his sister were accustomed to differ hotly about the Civil War. It is a bit of family history that Frederick Butler, an uncle of George H. Seall, was a colonel in the Union army and an officer of the day before the battle of Vicksburg. General Johnson was an uncle of Col. Fred Butler and met him before the battle. Saluting him, he said, "Colonel Butler, how is my sister, Betsey, your mother?" Colonel Butler is said to have replied, shortly, "General Johnson, ———, it is a damned poor time to discuss relationship on the eve of battle."

Henry Seall grew up at Bloomington and was in the mercantile business for many years. Later, he moved to Ellettsville, Monroe county, Indiana, and here George H. Seall grew up.

George H. Seall married Laura B. Sleeper, in 1874, who was born at New Albany, Indiana, and was the daughter of William A. and Melvina (Simonton) Sleeper. William A. Sleeper was born at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and his wife near Ironton, Ohio. They were married at New Albany, in December, 1851. Mr. Sleeper was a patternmaker, a mechanical draughtsman and a millwright. They moved to Arkansas about 1853 and remained there until the close of the Civil War. They then returned to New Albany, where both parents spent the remainder of their lives. Mrs. Melvina Sleeper was the daughter of John Simonton, a son of William Simonton, who was the son of Alexander Simonton. Alexander Simonton was a soldier in the American Revolution under Gen. George Washington. He was with a Pennsylvania troop and wounded at the battle of Brandywine. Afterwards, he settled at Sharon, Pennsylvania. William Sleeper was the son of Uriah and Elizabeth (Turner) Sleeper, natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent. They moved from Pittsburgh to near Bloomington, Indiana, in an early day and lived there the remainder of their lives.

Mrs. George H. Seall attended the Asbury Female College, afterward DePauw University, where she was graduated in 1871. After leaving college, she engaged in teaching, part of the time in the public schools but most of the time she was an instructor of instrumental music. She made her home at New Albany most of the time until her marriage.



After their marriage, George H. Seall and wife spent about three years in Kentucky, where he was engaged in contracting and building railroad grades for the Queen & Crescent railroad. He then made his home in Cincinnati for nearly two years and then came to Wood county, Ohio, and soon after to Sandusky. They moved to Putnam county in 1879, and located at North creek, in Palmer township, where he conducted a store for about eight years. At this time the land was not cleared, but saw-mills were numerous. The Black swamp was not yet drained. After eight years there, they moved to Continental and built a hotel, the Maple House, which Mr. Seall conducted for twelve years, renting it for some years when, in 1914, he sold it. After leaving the hotel, Mr. Seall purchased a farm which he worked for about three years. He then moved back to Continental and since has lived most of the time there. Mr. Seall and wife frequently go south or take long journeys. He owns considerable property in Continental.

George H. Seall is a thirty-second degree Mason and belongs to the chapter and council at Ottawa, the Knights Templar at Defiance and the consistory at Toledo. Mrs. Seall is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. Mr. Seall is also a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Probably less than half a dozen people have lived in Continental as long as Mr. Seall and his wife. When they came to Continental, it was a sort of overgrown backwoods village. Stumps still stuck up in Main street, the sidewalks were made of bark and there were deep ditches. There was hardly a respectable frame house in the town and most of the buildings were just shanties of the men who worked in the stave factory. Standing where the Continental Bank now is, the underbrush hid the view of the old school house which stood where the present brick house stands. While Mr. Seall lived at North creek, he was offered land at eight dollars an acre. The tie timber was taken off, but elm and maple were still abundant. However, the land was considered valueless and Mr. Seall refused the offer. At the edge of Continental, he could have bought land for fifteen dollars an acre when he moved to this town. This land is now almost invaluable.

Descended from substantial American stock, George H. Seall's rather large success is accounted for by his own prodigious industry and foresight as well as by his natural and inherited ability. It is to be remembered that his mother's father, Frederick T. Butler, was a well-known lawyer in his day and generation, a good speaker and a man who was active in getting volunteers for the Civil War. It is also to be remembered that George H. Seall's father, Henry Seall, was a veteran of the Mexican War. Coming from such stock as this, it is not surprising that George H. Seall has made good in the

world. Neither is it surprising that he is one of the leading citizens of Putnam county where he has lived so long. In one sense, men of his type are accidents, the result of a complex sway of forces which happen to focus in their own person, but, after all, to be the focus, the apex, the culmination, the cynosure is a notable distinction and this distinction belongs to George H. Seall.

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### CLINTON W. FAWCETT.

The Fawcett family, who are old pioneers of Putnam county, Ohio, are of Irish-Quaker ancestry and Clinton W. Fawcett is the seventh in direct line from the first member who came to this country from Ireland, about the year 1740. Thomas Fawcett, the first one of the family concerning whom definite record has been preserved, emigrated from Lisburn, Ireland, about the year 1740, and settled in Frederick county, Virginia. The line of descent from Thomas Fawcett to Clinton W. Fawcett is as follows: Thomas, John, John, Jr., Jesse, Robert B., James L. and Clinton W.

Robert B. Fawcett, the grandfather of Clinton W., was born in Frederick county, Virginia, on December 10, 1819. Before his marriage, his parents moved to Clinton county, Ohio, and later to Logan county, this state, where, in 1841, he married Catharine Monroe, who was a native of Culpeper county, Virginia. She was born on February 15, 1821, and was a daughter of Nathaniel Monroe, who was born in Culpeper county, Virginia, April 11, 1791. Nathaniel Monroe was a millwright, a soldier in the War of 1812, and, prior to his emigration to Ohio, in 1834, was a slaveholder, having obtained his slaves from the estate of John Brannin, his father-in-law. His father, John Monroe, who was of Scottish descent, was a soldier in the American Revolution, in a Virginia regiment. John Monroe's wife was Jane Shackelford. The mother of Catharine Monroe was Catharine Brannin, a daughter of John Brannin, who, in turn, was a son of Richard Brannin, an Irish refugee, who settled in Culpeper county, Virginia, early in the eighteenth century and resided on the Rapidan river until he reached the remarkable age of one hundred and sixteen years. Richard Brannin was an Irish baron and, before he came to Virginia, was implicated in one of the many unsuccessful insurrections to free Ireland from English rule, forfeiting all of his estate, when he was compelled to flee to Virginia. After his arrival in that state Governor Spottswood made him steward of his estate. Catharine Monroe died on March 15, 1904.

James L. Fawcett is a son of Robert B. and Catharine (Monroe) Fawcett, and was born on March 21, 1847, in Logan county, Ohio. When a small child, James L. Fawcett came to Putnam county, Ohio, with his parents, who located at Vaughnsville, in Sugar Creek township. His father afterward bought a farm in section 36, where he resided until his death, on May 17, 1867. In this county James L. Fawcett grew to manhood, and on September 18, 1872, married Elizabeth C. Allgire (nee Hershey), who was born in Richland county, Ohio, May 29, 1840, a daughter of Benjamin Hershey and Fannie (Stiner) Hershey.

Benjamin Hershey was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1802, and his wife, Fannie Stiner, was born near Frankfort, Germany, in 1807. Benjamin Hershey, his parents and his brothers and sisters moved to Richland county, Ohio, in 1835. He was a member of the Hershey family, whose ancestors came from Switzerland and settled in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1709. This family traces its ancestry back to the year 1535. Later, Benjamin Hershey and family removed to Franklin county, this state, where they resided until about the year 1857, when they came to Jackson township, Putnam county, Ohio. Elizabeth C. Allgire and her husband, Alpheus A. Allgire, came to Putnam county with her parents. Her father died in Jackson township on April 12, 1863. After his death, her mother remarried and removed to Riley township. Her husband, Alpheus A. Allgire, in 1862, enlisted in Company A, Ninety-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was captured near Dalton, Georgia, in 1864, confined in Andersonville prison until the close of the war, and died at Annapolis, Maryland, in the spring of 1865.

James L. Fawcett, the father of Clinton W., was reared on the farm in Sugar Creek township and taught school for a short time after reaching his maturity. For a number of years he was engaged in the manufacture of drain tile at Dupont, Ohio, and after retiring from this business was appointed postmaster at Dupont in 1893, and served during Cleveland's second administration. He was a soldier in the Civil War, a member of Company E, One Hundred and Ninety-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. After leaving the postoffice he held several offices in Perry township and is now making his home with his sons, Clinton W., of Ottawa, Ohio, and Ralph D., of St. Paul, Minnesota, dividing his time between them. His wife died on March 30, 1913.

Clinton W. Fawcett, the subject of this sketch, was born at Kalida, in this county, on February 21, 1875. He received a common school education in the schools of Putnam county, and before he reached his majority

began to teach school and followed this line of endeavor for several years in the schools of this county. In the meantime he became a student at the Ohio Northern University, at Ada, Ohio, specializing in science and in law. He completed the scientific course in 1896, and in 1904 completed the law course of that university, and in December, 1904, at Columbus, Ohio, was admitted to practice law.

Clinton W. Fawcett began the practice of law at Continental, Ohio, in 1905, and on January 1, 1908, he came to Ottawa, where he has since been located. He is a man of broad education and is recognized as one of the leading members of the bar of his county. He is active in Democratic politics and has served as clerk of the board of deputy state supervisors of elections of Putnam county. While teaching school in Perry township, he served as township clerk for four years.

Clinton W. Fawcett was married, in 1908, to Martha E. Weible. She was born at Dupont, this county, on November 3, 1885, where she received her education in the common schools of the county and where she taught in the schools of Continental for five years before her marriage. She is a daughter of George C. Weible and Nancy A. Snell. Her father is a son of Henry Weible, Sr., and Mary Will, of Delphos, Ohio, and her mother was a daughter of Albert and Martha Snell. To this union have been born three children, Mary E., Loretta C. and Ralph M.

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#### HENRY D. REAM.

Henry D. Ream was born on January 1, 1850, in Canton, Stark county, Ohio. He is the son of Abraham and Anna (Miller) Ream, the former of whom was born on December 10, 1821, near Canton, Ohio, of German parentage. He spent his boyhood days in Stark county, Ohio, where he was reared. Abraham Ream also taught school and was one of the early settlers of Ada, Ohio. He was closely identified with its growth and history. In his days of activity, he was a leader in reform movements and, in the days of slavery, especially, he was a pronounced abolitionist. He was always a stanch Prohibitionist. Abraham Ream belonged to a class of men to whom the world owes the civilization which it now enjoys. He was the son of Philip and Mary (Altman) Ream, both natives of Pennsylvania, of German descent. His grandfather was George Ream and history chronicles the fact that he served in the Revolutionary War under General Washington. He

was also one of the men sent out to quell Sharp's whiskey rebellion. Philip Ream came to Ohio at the time it was a territory and settled on Bull creek, in Columbiana county. He moved with his family to Stark county, Ohio, in 1806. He died in 1852, at which time he owned three hundred and fifty acres of land. Abraham Ream received his education in the common schools and lived on the farm until the age of twenty-five years, spending the last two or three winters in teaching school.

Abraham Ream engaged in the mercantile business in Canton about 1850, in partnership with Kaufman & Reynolds, and continued until 1856, when he came to Hancock county. Here he engaged in the dry goods business, at the little town of Newstark, having been proprietor of the place. In 1860 he started a branch store at Ada and in 1863 combined his stock from Newstark with that at Ada and from 1864 until 1873, he was prominently identified with the mercantile interests at Ada, Ohio. He started in partnership with his son, P. W., in 1873, operating a general store, a planing mill and a saw-mill in different sections of the town. Later he came to Ottawa, in 1874, and retired from active life in 1876.

Abraham Ream was married in 1846 to Anna Miller, who was also of German descent. Seven children were born to this union, Philip W., Henry D., Mary C., Isaac Newton, Jacob B., Levi O. and Anderson W. Philip W. was a telegraph operator and instructor of telegraphy at Ada College, died in 1901; Henry D. is the subject of this sketch; Mary C. married R. S. Shanks and died on April 13, 1914; Isaac Newton was killed in a railroad strike in 1888 on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad; Jacob B. is a merchant in Ada, Ohio; Levi O. is a funeral director and undertaker at Ada; Anderson W. is a plumber at Ada and also an instructor of telegraphy at Findlay College.

Abraham Ream was not a member of any church, but was inclined toward that of the Presbyterian faith. He was active in church work, contributing liberally of money and services. He died on April 25, 1895, at the age of seventy-four years. His wife died in 1884, at the age of fifty-nine. Abraham Ream was a man of strong convictions and for many years took a decided stand as opposed to the institution of slavery. He was a leader in many reform movements. He did much for the moral, civic and political advancement of Hancock county.

Henry D. Ream grew to manhood in Hardin county, Ohio, and received his education in the Normal College at Ada. He remained at home until the age of fifteen years, when he began to learn the trade of a mason. In his sixteenth year he entered into a contract to build a brick building. He

molded and burned the brick for the house and superintended the construction, turning it over to the owner who was entirely satisfied with the work. Since this time, Mr. Ream has been engaged in contracting and has done a great deal of building in various parts of Ohio, some of his contracts running over forty thousand dollars in cost. Mr. Ream moved to Ottawa, Ohio, in 1877 and purchased the Ottawa Manufacturing Company plant and assumed the management of the concern. This company manufactures sash doors of every description. When Mr. Ream took charge of it, only sash and doors were manufactured and general planing done. Later on turned work was added. Mr. Ream continued in this business for eighteen years and then sold it to Ault & Lee in 1885. Moreover, Mr. Ream had a farm of forty acres in Ottawa township and in selling the plant, took two farms in Monroe township of two hundred and ten acres.

Henry D. Ream took a mortgage on the plant and, in 1887, received the plant back, after which he with his two younger brothers conducted it for about three years. He then bought out the interest of the brothers and erected a brick building on the site of the old plant. Later it was used as an armory. He later sold the building and machinery to different parties in the spring of 1901, having moved to the Monroe township farm in the fall of 1900. Here he followed general farming for about five years and also shipped hay and straw. His farm is a model in many respects, being highly cultivated and fenced with Paige wire fencing. It contains about twenty miles of tile drainage. The greater part of the land is cleared and the buildings are about the best that are to be found in Putnam county. Mr. Ream sold a farm of one hundred and thirty acres, in December, 1910, to the Strauss brothers and, on January 26, 1915, sold seventy-seven acres more. He moved to Continental, in February, 1911, and built his present home, in July, 1912.

Henry D. Ream was married on May 16, 1871, to Miranda Gilbert, a native of Hardin county, Ohio, born on January 14, 1851. To this union four children have been born, Harry C., Alfred A., Lillian L. and Ruth A. Harry C., born on April 6, 1872, married Alpharetta Cunningham, and has four children, Royal G., Robert D., Guy C. and Paul M. They live in Detroit, Michigan, where he is a foreman in the Iron-Clad Door factory; Alfred A., July 26, 1874, married Osa Roberts, and is a farmer of seventy-seven acres of land in Monroe township; they have one child, Mary Mildred; Lillian L., May 16, 1878, and Ruth A., March 6, 1895, live at home.

Mrs. Henry D. Ream's father, Horace Gilbert, was born on April 10, 1805, in Vermont. He was the son of Josiah and Chloe (Barnard) Gilbert, both of English descent and natives of Vermont. Josiah Gilbert was a car-

penter and joiner. Horace Gilbert was educated in the public schools of Canada and Vermont. He settled in Ohio in 1840 and some time in the eighties was married to Sarah Wood, the daughter of Hezekiah and Elizabeth (Savage) Wood. To this union ten children were born, Berthina, the wife of John Shuster, deceased; Horace, deceased; Mrs. Mary A. Walters, deceased; Alvin, deceased; Milanda, deceased; Mrs. Melissa Arbuthnot; Arinda, deceased; Mrs. Laura Ream, deceased; Mrs. Marantha Cross, deceased; and Myranda, a twin sister of Marantha, who is the wife of Mr. Ream.

Josiah Gilbert and wife were members of the Presbyterian church. Horace Gilbert owned the first store in Ada, purchasing the same from the railroad company. He was a farmer and owned one hundred and sixty acres of land. He died on January 1, 1891, at the age of eighty-six years. His wife died on December 25, 1890, at the age of eighty-two. Horace Gilbert was a Republican in politics.

Henry D. Ream is a stanch Prohibitionist. He is not a member of any lodge and, with the exception of the presidency of the school board, has not held any office. Mrs. Ream is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Continental, and has been a member of this church since early girlhood.

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### GEORGE F. GILLIOTTE.

Few residents of Continental, Putnam county, Ohio, are as well and favorably known as the enterprising business man and representative citizen, whose life story is briefly told in the following lines. None stands higher than he in the esteem and confidence of the community in which he resides, or for the material advancement of which he has devoted so much of his time and influence. George F. Gilliotte, for several years, has been a prosperous, enterprising and successful merchant of Continental. He has a large grocery store, and his patronage has been growing from the time that Mr. Gilliotte went into the store as a clerk, many years ago.

George F. Gilliotte was born on July 17, 1885, in Pandora, Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of George F. and Louise (Gesard) Gilliotte.

George F. Gilliotte, Sr., was born on April 7, 1839, at Vandam Court, France. He left there in 1885, on the 1st of April, and came first to Gilboa, Putnam county, and located on a farm in Riley township. He had been

reared as a farmer and worked here for four years, when he moved to Monroe township, where he bought a farm of forty acres. Subsequently, he sold this farm and moved to Hector, Ohio, about 1891. Here he lived on a farm of twenty acres until his death, March 8, 1901, at the age of sixty-two years. George F. Gilliotte, Sr., had grown to maturity in France, and married there in 1869. There was a family of ten children born in France, four of whom died in infancy. Four children were born after the arrival in America. Mr. Gilliotte learned the watchmaker trade, at the age of sixteen, in France, and followed that trade in his native country, but did not follow it after coming to America. He was not a member of any lodge and held no offices in this country, while in politics he was a Democrat. He was a prominent and influential member in the Lutheran church at Continental, and was a man highly respected in the community at the time of his death. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Louise Gessard, was also born at Vandam Court, France, in 1849. She is still living, one and one-half miles east of Continental, Ohio.

George F., Sr., and Louise (Gessard) Gilliotte had fourteen children, including the four who died in infancy. Ten of the children still survive. They are Mrs. W. J. Keller, of South Bend, Indiana; Mrs. W. A. Millsbaugh, of Continental; Lucian F., of Spirit Lake, Iowa; Mrs. E. F. Dellinger, of Continental; Mrs. Charles Conkwright, of Monroe township, Ohio; Mrs. Wilson Burley, of Crooksville, Ohio; George F., Jr.; Benjamin A., who lives at home; Marie, who is a teacher in the sixth grade Continental schools, and Alfred, who also lives at home.

George F. Gilliotte, Sr., was the son of Pierre and Suzan (Marchand) Gilliotte. Mrs. George F. Gilliotte, Sr., who, before her marriage, was Louise Gessard, is the daughter of Charles and Catherine (Giraud) Gessard. Pierre and Suzan (Marchand) Gillotte were natives of Vandam Court, France. Charles Gessard was also a native of Vandam Court, France, while his wife, Catherine Giraud, was a native of Abbeville, France.

George F. Gilliotte, Jr., the subject of this sketch, was reared and grew up in Monroe township, Putnam county, Ohio. He was educated, principally, in the township schools at Hector, Ohio, lived at home until twenty years of age. He then began clerking for E. F. Dellinger in the grocery store at Continental, where he worked for four years, when he finally purchased the store of Mr. Dellinger. He was in business alone for three years, when the store burned, but he re-established it the next year on the



present site, and is still active, doing business under his separate name. Mr. Gilliotte has a large and well-stocked grocery, and enjoys a liberal patronage from the people of Continental.

George F. Gilliotte, Jr., was married on June 14, 1914, to Mable Donaldson, who was born on April 1, 1890, in Monroe township, and who is the daughter of Asa and Mary (Taylor) Donaldson. One son was born to this union, on April 7, 1915.

George F. Gilliotte is a member of the Masonic Lodge No. 570, Free and Accepted Masons, at Continental, and of Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 339, at the same place. Likewise he is a member of the Pythian Sisters and the Order of Eastern Star. Mr. Gilliotte is a stanch Democrat, but he has held no offices, with the exception of a membership on the town election board. He is not a member of any church. Mrs. Gilliotte, however, is a member of the United Brethren church. After Mr. Gillotte's fire, in June, 1912, he took a three-months' trip to Europe, visiting the old home place in France, Rome, and sojourning in different parts of Europe, returning to Continental and establishing his present business. George F. Gilliotte, Jr., is a well-informed man, popular in the community where he lives and admired and respected by all his neighbors and friends.

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#### ORVILLE McDOWELL.

A review of the life of Orville McDowell must, of necessity, be brief and general in character, since to enter fully into the interesting details touching the earnest and persistent efforts of his earlier years and successes of later days, would far transcend the limits of this article. He has filled a large place in the ranks of the enterprising and public-spirited men of his day, and has been an important factor in the growth and development of Continental's industrial and commercial interests. He is a representative of that sterling type of world-workers who have furnished much of the bone and sinew of the country and added to its stability and its institutions. And yet, in spite of the multitudinous activities of his life, he never allowed the pursuit of wealth to warp his kindly nature, but has preserved this faculty and the warmth of his heart for the broadening and helpful influence of human life, being a kindly, genial friend and gentleman whom it is a pleasure to meet.

Orville McDowell was born on September 23, 1865, in the north part of Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Hugh L. and Mary (Ridge) McDowell, the former of whom was born in Licking county, Ohio, on August 12, 1841, and who, himself, was the son of James and Agnes (Bacon) McDowell. James McDowell was a native of Licking county, Ohio, who moved to Putnam county, in 1845, and there died, two years later. At his death, James McDowell was survived by a widow and four children. The children were: Isaac, Hugh L., Jane and Sarah, the last of whom married Joseph Bartoon. Mrs. Agnes (Bacon) McDowell, subsequently, married William Sackett and died at Gilboa, Putnam county, at the age of seventy-four. Mrs. Mary (Ridge) McDowell, the wife of Hugh L. McDowell, was the daughter of William Ridge. She and her husband had eight children, Orville, the subject of this sketch, was the eldest; James W. held various public positions in Putnam county; Harvey H. at one time served as deputy postmaster; David; Isaac Newton; Earnest; Nelson H., and Cortis E., were other children. Hugh L. McDowell was a soldier in the Civil War, having served in Company D, Twenty-first Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and having participated in a number of battles. He was discharged at Decard Station, Tennessee, August 7, 1863. At one time, Hugh L. McDowell was treasurer of Putnam county and, later, served as postmaster at Ottawa.

After Hugh L. McDowell retired from the office of county treasurer, in the fall of 1883, he moved to a farm, just south of the base line, in Riley township. He lived upon this farm until 1891, and then moved back to Ottawa where, for a time, he was a dealer in live stock. He was appointed postmaster, under President Cleveland, and served for four years. He resumed his trade in live stock, after his retirement from this office, and spent the rest of his life in Ottawa and is now deceased. Mrs. Hugh L. McDowell still lives in Ottawa.

Orville McDowell was about fourteen years old when his father was elected county treasurer and the family moved to Ottawa where they remained four years. Subsequently, his father purchased the farm in the southeastern part of Pleasant township. Orville McDowell attended college at Ada, where he took a course in pharmacy, in 1886 and 1887, and where he was graduated. He was employed as a drug clerk, for two years, and then engaged in business at North Baltimore, Ohio, in partnership with H. M. Nelson. Mr. Nelson was succeeded by Doctor Henry, but after Mr. McDowell had been there four years, in 1894, he sold out and removed to Ottawa, where he was engaged in the handling of fire insurance for about

two years, in the W. F. Zeller agency. Mr. McDowell removed to Continental in 1896 and clerked for a year in the H. A. Neffs store. In April 12, 1897, he started in the drug business for himself. He began by purchasing a small stock at Kalida, which he moved to Continental. He has continued in the business ever since with success and has a good store. During the session of the Ohio State Senate in 1884-85, Mr. McDowell was a page.

In April, 1913, Orville McDowell and his brother Isaac Newton McDowell started a clothing and gentlemens' furnishings store, next to the drug store, at Continental, under the firm name of McDowell Brothers. Since this time, Mr. McDowell has been engaged both in the drug and the clothing business.

For seven or eight years, Mr. McDowell was township clerk of Monroe township. He also served on the council at Continental and is now a member of the board of public affairs. Mr. McDowell is a Democrat, but he is not a hide-bound partisan in any sense of the word.

On August 25, 1889, Orville McDowell was married to Gertrude C. Young, who was born at Nevada, in Wyandot county, Ohio, in 1867, and who is the daughter of Charles and Mary M. (Kennedy) Young. Both of Mrs. McDowell's parents were born and reared and married in Marion county and moved to the town of Nevada, in 1867. Her father was there engaged in the poultry business. Her parents spent the remainder of their lives at Nevada, where Mrs. McDowell had lived until her marriage and at which place she graduated from the high school and, for five years afterward, was engaged in teaching. Orville and Gertrude (Young) McDowell have two children, Majorie and Glenn.

Charles Young, the father of Mrs. McDowell, was the son of John and Mary (Meisner) Young, who came from Maryland. Charles Young's wife, Mary Kennedy, and the mother of Mrs. McDowell, was a daughter of John and Maria (Lorimer) Kennedy. The Kennedys came from Irish ancestry and the Lorimer family from Scottish ancestry.

Orville McDowell and wife are members of the Pythian Sisters and the Order of the Eastern Star. Mr. McDowell belongs to the Knights of Pythias, is a Mason and a member of the Knights Templar. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist church.

Orville McDowell has been in business, continuously, in Continental, longer than any other person who lives there. He is well and favorably known throughout this section of Putnam county and enjoys the confidence, not only in a business way, but in a social way, of all the people in this section of the county.

## HENRY BURILL.

Henry Burill is a well-known farmer, of Palmer township, Putnam county, who, for many years, was one of the best known and most skillful and most successful carpenters in this section of Putnam county. Mr. Burill is known far and wide for the excellence of his work, for his honorable, upright dealings with the public generally, and today he is one of the successful farmers of Palmer township. He has been honored many times by the people of Palmer township with positions of responsibility and Mr. Burill has well discharged the duties of all of these offices.

Henry Burill was born in the Dominion of Canada, January 23, 1859. He is the son of Silas and Louise (Hoffman) Burill. Mr. Burill's maternal grandparents were Philip Hoffman and wife, natives of Germany, who came to Henry county, Ohio, settling near Pleasant Bend on a farm which they cleared and improved. They lived there until their deaths. Their children were as follow: Jacob, Caroline, Louise, Peter, Philip, deceased, and Jacob, deceased. Henry Burill's father was a resident of Palmer township, in this county. He served as a soldier in the Mexican War and, after the close of the war, settled on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of government land. Later, he acquired eighty acres more and here he made many improvements, erecting buildings and clearing the land. Mr. Burill's mother was born in Henry county, Ohio. After the marriage of Mr. Burill's parents, they moved to their farm, in section 4, where they lived for many years. Their children are Philip, who married Eve Dirr and lives near Pleasant Bend, Henry county; Louise, who married Jonas Rigg and lives near Butler, Indiana; and Henry, the subject of this sketch. Silas Burill died about 1858 and his wife in 1862. They were members of the Reformed church.

Henry Burill was educated in Henry county and in early boyhood made his home with his maternal grandmother, in Pleasant township. He, later, went to Wisconsin and Minnesota, where he remained for about two years. After that he returned to Henry county and at the demise of his grandmother Hoffman, made his home with his uncle, Peter Hoffman. He was married in 1883, to Kate Morris, the daughter of John Morris and wife.

John Morris and wife were born in Germany and came to Henry county where they located on a farm. Later, they settled in Defiance county, Ohio, also on a farm, and here they remained until their deaths. Their children were George; John and Henry, twins; Peter; Conrad; Mary; Catherine and Margaret, deceased. John Morris died about 1878, and his wife about 1881.

They were members of the German Reformed church and their remains were interred in Defiance cemetery.

After his marriage, Mr. Burill moved to Pleasant Bend, Ohio, and engaged in carpenter work, which trade he had learned in his youth. He was in Pleasant Bend for three or four years and, during that time, his services were in great demand. His workmanship was generally admired for its excellence. He purchased forty acres of land in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, and on this, he erected buildings. He cleared and drained the land. Later, he acquired eighty acres in the same section.

To Henry and Kate (Morris) Burill were born five children, William; Alvin, who died in infancy; Ernest, Laura and Clarence. William, who is a farmer in Palmer township, married Elsie Wolf and has two children; Ernest, also a farmer of Palmer township, married Ruth Baker; Laura, who married George Dickson, lives near Lansing, Michigan, and has two children; Clarence lives at home. The mother of these children died in December, 1899, and was buried in the cemetery at New Batavia.

Henry Burill was again married, in 1900, to Kate Young, the daughter of John and Margaret Young, who lived at North Creek. John Young died in 1900, while Margaret Young died in 1907.

John Young was a machinist by trade and at one time owned the stave factory at North Creek and also owned saw-mills in various parts of Ohio. John Young died at North Creek, Ohio, and Margaret Young, his wife, died in Wood county at the home her son, Andrew. The children of John and Margaret Young were: Kate, Margaret, Delia, Anna, Henry, Jacob, Fred, Andrew, living, and Christine, Jennie, George, Susan, Louis, Christopher and Elizabeth, dead.

John Young and wife were born in Germany and came to this country, separately, before marriage. He was an architect in Germany, but did not follow this in this country. Henry Burill and wife were married in Amherst, Ohio, and lived there for a number of years. Later, they moved to a farm near Genoa, Ottawa county, Ohio, after which they moved to Wood county, where he operated a saw-mill. He then engaged in a general store business in Wood county, later moved to North Creek, where he lived the rest of his life.

After his second marriage, Henry Burill continued to live on his farm. He and his wife are popular in Palmer township and stand well in the social life of the community. No children have been born to this second marriage.

Henry Burill's two sons, William and Ernest, live on the eighty acres

which Mr. Burill acquired, just west of his farm in Palmer township. Each son farms forty acres. Mr. Burill has served as constable of Pleasant township, Henry county, for three years and is now serving as school director in Palmer township, Putnam county. He was township trustee for two terms and is identified with the Democratic party. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias at Pleasant Bend. He and his wife are members of the German Reformed church. Henry Burill is an affable, agreeable man, a substantial farmer, well liked by his neighbors and intelligent in all of the relations of life.

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#### ERNEST L. HARTMAN.

Putnam county, Ohio, has been especially favored in the personnel of its newspaper men and among the representatives of this profession in this county is Ernest L. Hartman, the publisher and editor of the *Continental Union News*. During late years, he has not only gained distinct success in this business, but he has, through his personal influence, by voice and pen, stood for the highest and best things in the community's life. He has not only gained prestige as an active, progressive and successful business man, but, in a professional way, deserves to be considered one of the best citizens of the community, in the largest sense of the word. The *Continental Union News*, under the management of Mr. Hartman, has always been a booster for local enterprises and has always represented the best spirit of the community wherein it circulates.

Ernest L. Hartman was born on July 14, 1858, in Napoleon, Henry county, Ohio. He is the son of Charles C. and Sarah (Funk) Hartman. Charles C. Hartman was born in Center county, Pennsylvania, and came with his parents, Samuel and Lucy (Holcomb) Hartman, to Wayne county, where Charles C. was educated and where he spent seven years. After this, they moved to Henry county, Ohio, where he taught school. He also taught in New York state. Charles C. Hartman died at Napoleon, Ohio, in 1859. Samuel Hartman, the father of Charles C., was born in Center county, Pennsylvania, and his wife, Lucy Holcomb, was born at Elmira, New York. Lucy Hartman died in Henry county, Ohio. Samuel Hartman died in Salona, Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Sarah Hartman, the mother of Ernest L., was born in Pennsylvania and died in Napoleon, Ohio, the same year as her husband. Ernest L. Hartman was the only child born to his parents.

Ernest L. Hartman grew up in Henry county and especially at Napoleon, Ohio. He received his early education in the country schools of Henry county and graduated from the Napoleon high school with the class of 1877. Subsequently, he read law under Hon. W. A. Stephenson at Napoleon, and was admitted to the bar, May 20, 1882, at Columbus, Ohio. He also spent one year as a student of the scientific course at Valparaiso College, at Valparaiso, Indiana, but did not graduate. From Henry county, Ohio, Mr. Hartman moved to Willshire, Van Wert county, Ohio, in 1892, and here he operated a stave and hoop mill. He also engaged in the practice of law. Mr. Hartman moved to Ohio City in Van Wert county, in 1899, and here engaged in the practice of law. He was also identified with the timber business during the oil boom. From Ohio City, Mr. Hartman moved to Continental, where he had purchased the *Union News* plant, August 24, 1907. Several months later he moved his family to Continental where he is actively engaged in the newspaper work and printing business. He has a large circulation in the township and county and a large and lucrative business in job printing. Mr. Hartman is also active in the practice of law in addition to his newspaper work. He taught school in Henry county, Ohio, many terms and also one year in Elkhart county. Mr. Hartman's father and his grandfather and uncle taught at the old Cole school in Henry county, where Charles L., himself, also taught for many years.

Ernest L. Hartman was married on June 7, 1887, at Napoleon, Ohio, to Mary A. Sheffield, who was born at Napoleon, Ohio, on October 13, 1857. She is the daughter of Edward and Phebe (Brownell) Sheffield. Edward Sheffield was born in Paynesville, Ohio, and educated in the practice of law. He was a prominent lawyer, at Napoleon, at the time of his death and had held several high offices, having been a member of the Ohio General Assembly, county auditor and prosecuting attorney. He died in Napoleon, Henry county, Ohio, in 1865, at the age of thirty-nine years. His wife, who was Phebe Brownell before her marriage, was born in New York state and was the daughter of William and Lydia (Chase) Brownell, both of whom were devout members of the Quaker church, both natives of New York, having been born near Palmyra, where they grew up. After their marriage, they moved to Henry county, Ohio, where William Brownell assisted in the survey of the county. They were among its pioneers and witnessed its development from the beginning. William Brownell was a millwright and a surveyor, both trades having been learned in New York state. Both he and his wife died in Henry county. Mrs. Phebe Sheffield, the mother of Mrs. Hartman, died at Napoleon, Henry county, Ohio, March 12, 1911, at the age of

eighty-five. She and her husband had four children, Mrs. Ella E. Cowdrick, of Topeka, Kansas; William C., deceased; Mary A., the wife of Mr. Hartman; and Phebe D., of Napoleon, Ohio, who is the librarian of the Carnegie library there. Mrs. Hartman grew up at Napoleon, Ohio, and was educated there, being a graduate in the first class of the Napoleon high school in 1875. She was a school teacher and taught school for fourteen years, ten years in the public schools at Napoleon, two years as superintendent of the Penacook schools at Penacook, New Hampshire, and also at Willshire, Van Wert county, Ohio. At Willshire she was the first lady member of the board of education and was selected as clerk. To Ernest L. and Mary A. (Sheffield) Hartman, two children have been born, Eugene B., on February 17, 1888; and Edward S., April 29, 1890. Eugene B. lives at Toledo, Ohio, where he is engaged in the printing business; Edward S. lives at Napoleon, where he is a city mail carrier.

Ernest L. Hartman is not a member of any lodge. He is a Republican in politics and served as mayor of Willshire, Ohio, one term while he was living there. He is a justice of the peace at Continental and completes a term of four years on January 1, 1916. He is not a member of any church. Mrs. Hartman is a member of the Presbyterian church at Napoleon, Ohio. She is clerk of the board of public affairs at Continental and secretary of the Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, since 1911, and trustee since its reorganization in 1915.

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### JOHN WILLIAM HIXON.

One of the conspicuous men from the list of Putnam county's farmers is John William Hixon, a substantial farmer of Blanchard township, and a gentleman of high standing to whom has not been denied a full measure of success. Long recognized as a factor of importance in connection with farming and stock raising, he has been prominently identified with the material growth and prosperity of this part of the state of Ohio. His life is closely interwoven with the history of Putnam county, where he has been content to live and follow his chosen vocation for many years. John William Hixon is an excellent farmer and has kept abreast of twentieth century methods in farming.

John William Hixon was born on August 6, 1858, on the wagon route from Indiana to Ohio, and is the son of George and Mary Ellen (Vaughn)



Hixon. George Hixon was born on August 10, 1830, in Washington county, Pennsylvania, and was the son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Cotner) Hixon, natives of Pennsylvania. Samuel Hixon's father served in the Revolutionary War under General Washington. Samuel Hixon died when his son, George was a small boy. The family then moved to Carroll county, about 1842. Samuel and Elizabeth (Cotner) Hixon had ten children, eight sons and two daughters, Jacob, John, Samuel, Jr., James, Thomas, George, Josiah, William, Mary and Susanne. George Hixon was reared by Joseph Sellers, of Carroll county, after he was twelve or thirteen years of age, and remained with Mr. Sellers until he was a young man. George Hixon's mother and the family then moved to Blanchard township, Putnam county, and settled about a mile northwest of Gilboa. Here they remained a few years, and it was here that George was married, when twenty-three or twenty-four years of age, to Mary Ellen Vaughn. All the family then moved to Owen county, Indiana. Here George and his wife remained for two years and returned to Blanchard township, Putnam county, settling three miles north of Gilboa, near the Pleasant Grove church. They lived at this place at the time of their death. The land was covered with timber in those days and they were compelled to cut a road through the wilderness to reach their farm. Here George Hixon cleared a place for their cabin. They suffered all the hardships incident to pioneer life. For a few years the wheat crop was a failure, due to the ravages of the weevil, and the family was compelled to live on corn bread that time. Wild game, however, was plentiful, and included fox, wild turkey, coon, mink and squirrel.

Mary Ellen (Vaughn) Hixon was the daughter of John W. Vaughn and wife, the latter of whom died when Mary Ellen was two or three years old. Mary Ellen Hixon was born on March 12, 1835, in Marion county, Ohio, and came with her parents to Putnam county when one year old. John W. Vaughn was born in 1812, in Culpepper county, Virginia, and came to Marion county in the early days.

George and Mary Ellen (Vaughn) Hixon had four children, John W., the subject of this sketch; Thomas Emmett and Lillie May, twins, and Samuel Marion. George Hixon died in the summer of 1905, and his wife died in August, 1907.

John W. Vaughn, who was Mr. Hixon's maternal grandfather, entered his land from the government. When he built his first log cabin, there was no chimney, but a hole in the center of the roof from which the smoke might emerge. At that time the country was full of Indians. John W. Vaughn

depended on his skill as a hunter to supply his family with meat and to get money with which to pay his taxes. Mr. Hixon's mother often related how the dogs would chase the wolves until outnumbered, when they were forced back to the house and compelled to seek the shelter of the log cabin. She was fond of telling stories about the early Indian visitors, who strapped their papooses on their backs, tied to a board.

John William Hixon, the subject of this sketch, grew up on the old homestead and attended the common schools. He also attended the normal school at Ottawa for one term.

John William Hixon was married on October 16, 1881, to Emma Caroline Rager, who was born on June 6, 1859, in Franklin county, Ohio, and who was the daughter of Adam and Julia Rager, the former a native of Franklin and the latter of Licking county, Ohio. To this union was born one child, Charles Oscar, who married Mary Alice Schafer, the daughter of Ella Schafer. They have two children, Vera Caroline and John Harold. Charles Oscar is farming forty acres of his own and also his father's old home place.

After his marriage, Mr. Hixon farmed his grandfather Vaughan's place for four years, or until the latter's death, and then moved to the Dell Foulk farm, in Blanchard township. Here he lived for two years and then purchased eighty acres north and east of the old homestead. Some years later he also purchased his father's old home place. This he later sold and bought another farm just north of his original eighty. He has continued to live here from that time. Mr. Hixon has always raised a good grade of stock and has been very successful with it.

John William Hixon is a Democrat, but he has never been especially active in political affairs and has never been an aspirant for office. He and his wife and family are members of the Methodist Protestant church. Mr. Hixon joined this church at the age of thirteen and has been active in its work all his life. He was superintendent of the Sunday school for twenty years and chairman of the building committee, as well as the board of trustees, for several years. The Methodist Protestant church, of which Mr. Hixon is a member and in which he is prominent, is one of the most magnificent country churches to be found anywhere. It is a monument to the citizenship of the community.

John William Hixon is a man of genial disposition, affable and agreeable, although earnest and sincere in all his relations with his fellows. He is popular in the community where he lives.

## ELAH HARRY BUCKLAND.

There is no calling, however humble, in which enterprise and industry, coupled with a well-directed purpose, will not produce some measure of success. In the pursuit of agriculture, the qualities mentioned are quite essential. Among the well-known and highly-respected farmers of Putnam county, Ohio, who have attained a definite degree of success in their life work and who, at the same time, have greatly benefited the community in which they live, is Elah Harry Buckland, of Blanchard township.

Elah Harry Buckland was born on February 13, 1844, in Licking county, Ohio, the son of John L. and Caroline (Beach) Buckland. John L. Buckland was a farmer of Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, and was born in Rutland county, Vermont, on June 17, 1817, and died on March 19, 1887. He came from Vermont direct to Ohio in 1852. John L. Buckland was the son of William and Anna (Lewis) Buckland. He was married in Licking county, Ohio, December 16, 1841, to Caroline Beach, the daughter of Joseph and Rebecca (Hayes) Beach. Mrs. John L. Buckland was born in Essex county, New York, August 13, 1821, and died on November 17, 1910. Subsequently, her parents came to Putnam county and, in 1863, Joseph Beach's first wife, Rebecca Hayes, died in Licking county. After this, he removed to Putnam county and three years later was married.

To John L. and Caroline (Beach) Buckland eight children were born, Mary Ann, on November 4, 1842, who is the wife of James Maidlow, of Blanchard township; Elah Harry, the subject of this sketch; Alice Lucinda, October 25, 1845, who is the wife of Charles Gifford Conine, of Blanchard township; Reuben Sanford, September 3, 1848, died on April 21, 1867; Lewis Thare, November 21, 1850, died on March 19, 1912; Sarah Helen, September 10, 1851, who is the wife of George Agner, of Ottawa; John, October 1, 1861, died on April 14, 1863; and Jerusha Caroline, September 16, 1864, who is the widow of Basset Sherrard.

Elah Harry Buckland came to Putnam county, October 23, 1852, with his parents when he was eight years old. Here he attended the common schools. His father had borrowed money to buy his first farm of eighty acres, which cost three hundred and fifty dollars. After completing his purchase, he had just ten dollars left. Samuel Wells, a resident of Licking county, insisted that this was not enough upon which to start farming in a new country and support a family of five children through the winter, so he insisted that Mr. Buckland's father accept a further loan of fifty dollars. His generosity enabled the family to pull through the winter. They lived

on S. P. Weaver's farm until they could build their first log house into which they moved, about the first of the year 1853. It was amid these primitive surroundings that Elah H. Buckland grew to manhood. He remained on the old homestead until he was twenty-three years of age.

Elah Harry Buckland was married on March 28, 1867, to Jane Rebecca Maidlow, the daughter of John and Lucinda (Dowds) Maidlow, who was born on July 10, 1846. Her father was a native of England, who came to Baltimore, Maryland, and finally to Knox county, Ohio, at the age of fourteen. Here he met Lucinda Dowds, who was born in Knox county. Shortly after their marriage, they came to Putnam county in 1835, where Mr. Buckland has lived for sixty-two years. His wife died on January 15, 1901.

After his marriage, Elah H. Buckland started out for himself. He rented a farm of Henry Watts in Ottawa township, but the next year moved back to Blanchard township, on the John Maidlow farm, where he remained for fourteen years. In the spring of 1882, he moved to the John McDougle farm, which he purchased two years later. Mr. Buckland has always raised a high grade of stock and has been a very successful farmer.

Elah Harry and Jane Rebecca (Maidlow) Buckland have been the parents of seven children, Harry L., born on February 28, 1868, who married Dellar Burgett, and has seven children, Everett, Lewis, Lena, Herman, Minerva, DeLawrence and Clitus; Agnes M., March 30, 1870, who married Edgar Deck, whose sketch is given elsewhere in this volume; Mary E., March 29, 1872, who is the wife of John Payne and has five children, Eva, Ethel, Jerusha, Zella and Serge; Samuel, November 25, 1874, died on February 9, 1877; Annetta, March 12, 1877, who is the wife of Harry Deck, and has five children, Garrett, Percy, Elah, Delbert and Raymond; Elah M., April 7, 1879; Martha, November 28, 1882, who is the wife of Thomas Radabaugh, of Blanchard township, and has five children, Alvin, Esther, Hazel Edna, LeVaughn, deceased, and one who died in infancy.

Elah M. Buckland, the youngest son of Elah H., was married to Margaret Pitney, the daughter of Joseph and Ella Pitney. She was born in Blanchard township, Putnam county, but her parents were natives of Licking county, Ohio. They came to Putnam county in 1880 and settled in Blanchard township. They had eleven children, Louis, Levi, Alonzo, Effie, Margaret, Mary, Russell, Olive, Josephine, Bessie and Admiral, all of whom are living except Olive and Josephine. Elah M. and Margaret (Pitney) Buckland have had three children, Lela, born on September 9, 1901, died on October 10, 1901; Frederick, September 27, 1902; and Reuben, December 12, 1903.

Elah H. Buckland has reared a large family to lives of usefulness in their respective communities and he is a man who merits the honor and respect of his fellow citizens, for his splendid services as a father, and his upright life as a man. Mr. Buckland has been a life-long Republican. He has served both as school director and supervisor. Throughout his life he has been a member of the Methodist Protestant church and from his young manhood to the present time has been active in the affairs of this church

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### FRANCIS MARION WARREN.

Among the citizens of Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, who have built up comfortable homes and surrounded themselves with valuable landed estates and personal property, few have attained a higher degree of success than has Francis Marion Warren. With few opportunities, except what his own efforts were capable of providing, and with many discouragements to overcome, he has made a success, and has the gratification of knowing that the community in which he resides has been benefited by his presence and his counsel.

Francis Marion Warren was born in Hancock county, Ohio, on September 25, 1854, a son of William and Rachel (McConnell) Warren. William Warren was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, in 1820. His father was a Scotchman and his mother was a native of Pennsylvania, having come to Ohio with her parents during her girlhood, where they settled in Jefferson county.

William Warren lived with his parents in Jefferson county until he was twenty-five years of age, at which time he married Rachel McConnell and moved to Hancock county, where he entered government land about six miles east of Findlay. He found his new land in a virgin state and the experiences of himself and his wife were practically the same as those of all other early pioneers. They followed the usual custom of first clearing a little space and building a log cabin. Later, after much perseverance, they cleared the remainder of the farm and placed it in a state of cultivation. Later, Mr. Warren added to his farm holdings by the purchase of a tract of land in the northwest part of Blanchard township, Putnam county.

Six children were born to William and Rachel (McConnell) Warren, as follow: Harriett, the wife of George Anderson, of Endicott, Nebraska, to whom four children have been born, two of which are now deceased;

Emma, deceased, who was the wife of Henry Bowman, of Findlay, Ohio, and the mother of nine children, two of which died in infancy; Francis M., the subject of this sketch; Amilous, who married Eva Jeffrey and who lives on the old homestead east of Findlay; Eva, the wife of Lineous Ewing, who lives east of Findlay; Harvey, who married Edna Glothart, to which union were born three children, and for his second wife, Emma Wyant, by whom he has one child. William Warren died on October 7, 1881, and his wife, Rachel, died on December 1, 1897.

Francis M. Warren lived on the old home place in Hancock county, where he attended the public schools and worked on the farm until, when about twenty years of age, in 1875, he married Ella Albertson, a daughter of William and Justine Albertson. To that union four children were born, all of whom died in infancy. Ella Warren did not long survive her children, and died in February, 1881.

On August 29, 1882, Francis M. Warren married a second time, his second wife being Sarah J. Warren, who was born on October 9, 1856, in Wyandotte county, near Carey, Ohio, a daughter of Andrew J. and Catherine (Spade) Warren. Andrew J. Warren was born in Delaware, Ohio, on August 8, 1831, and died in June, 1892. His father, who died when Andrew J. was a child, came from New York state. Catherine Spade was a daughter of Daniel and Nancy (Breiner) Spade, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania and who settled in Wyandot county, Ohio, about 1830. Sarah J. Warren, when four years of age, moved with her parents to Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, about three miles northwest of Leipsic, where she attended school and lived with her parents until the time of her marriage to Francis M. Warren. To that union were born four children, as follow: Clyde, who married Rachel Compton and lives in Hancock county, Ohio; Monroe, who married Gale Hermon, and to whom has been born one son, Francis Lewis; Effie, the wife of Lester Helfer, to whom has been born one daughter, Mildred Lucile, and Miley Ford, who is unmarried and lives at home.

Francis Marion Warren has been a resident of Putnam county about forty years. He is a successful farmer and specializes in the breeding and raising of high grade stock. He is a supporter of the Democratic party and has always been actively interested in political matters. He has served as a member of the school board, in which office he gave such great satisfaction that the citizens of his community desired to elect him township trustee, an honor which he refused.

Francis Warren and wife are both active members of the Methodist

Protestant church, of which Mr. Warren is a trustee. Mr. Warren is a man of high integrity and is universally respected and esteemed by all his neighbors. His success has been entirely the result of his own energy and perseverance and the readiness with which he grasped and developed every opportunity.

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### WILLIAM HENRY FAIRCHILD.

The man whose name forms the caption of this sketch, is one of the representative farmers of Blanchard township, Putnam county, and is entitled to a place in the history of his county.

William Henry Fairchild was born in Blanchard township, Hancock county, Ohio, on October 23, 1868, a son of Jesse and Louisa (Blakely) Fairchild. Jesse Fairchild was born in Putnam county, August 5, 1840, a son of John and Elizabeth Fairchild, both of whom came from Franklin county, Ohio, in 1832.

John Fairchild was a native of Ireland and came to America with his parents when he was seven years of age, settling in Franklin county, near Columbus, Ohio. A number of years later, after his marriage, and while he was still a young man, he moved to Putnam county, where he brought up his family. He entered one hundred and sixty acres of government land, which lay partly in Blanchard township, Putnam county, and partly in Blanchard township, Hancock county, Ohio. He followed the usual pioneer system of development, cleared his land and built a double log cabin, half of which lay in each county.

In addition to his activities as a farmer, he constructed a water-power saw-mill on Buck run, where he conducted a very profitable business. When his son, Jesse, was about twenty years of age, he took charge of the mill and, at the outbreak of the Civil War manufactured gun stocks for the United States government, for which work he used only black walnut. Jesse Fairchild conducted the mill until about 1878, after which he devoted all his time to farming. He retired about 1895, but still owns the old home place. He was a successful farmer and a man highly respected by all his neighbors. In politics, he was a Democrat. He is a member of the Church of God, in which he has always been an active worker. He is still living at the ripe old age of seventy-five.

William Henry Fairchild grew to manhood on the old homestead and attended the schools of Hancock county, where he remained until he was

twenty-four years of age, at which time he was married and moved to Leipsic, in 1892, to engage in farming, his farm lying just outside the corporation limits. He sold that place and moved to Blanchard township, Putnam county, in 1894, where he bought the McArthur and Grafton farm, where he now makes his home.

On November 26, 1892, he married Uzela Ramsey, a daughter of Samuel and Mary (Leffler) Ramsey. Samuel Ramsey was born on November 7, 1811, in Jefferson county, Ohio, and died on November 18, 1889. He was a son of John and Nancy Ramsey. After his marriage, he came to Hancock county and entered three claims of eighty acres each. This farm was later divided among his children. He then moved to two and one-half miles west of Leipsic, where he bought the Bill Edwards place, on which he lived for about seven years. This place he sold and afterward bought the old Swinehart farm, seven and one-half miles west of Leipsic. After operating that farm for four or five years, he retired and bought forty acres near Leipsic, where he lived until the time of his death, November 18, 1889. He died at the age of seventy-eight.

Mary Leffler, his wife, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on May 25, 1833, and died on December 17, 1913, at the age of eighty years, six months and twenty-two days. She was a daughter of John and Nancy (Meirs) Leffler, both of whom were pioneers of Fairfield county. Mary Leffler came to Putnam county with her parents at the age of eighteen. They entered government land just north of Leipsic and developed the farm which they had homesteaded.

Samuel Ramsey was married to Mary Leffler on July 4, 1869, that being his second marriage. His first wife was Nancy Coulter, and to that union were born ten children, one of which died in infancy and another at the age of fifteen. To the second marriage were born Mary Roselle, who died at the age of two years; Uzela, the wife of the subject of this sketch; Uzena, who died at the age of four years, and Uzelus, who died at the age of one year.

William Henry Fairchild and wife now own two hundred and fifty acres of land in Putnam county, all in a thorough state of improvement. On his farm he specializes in the breeding and raising of thoroughbred Duroc-Jersey hogs, a branch of endeavor in which he has been very successful.

To William Henry and Uzela (Ramsey) Fairchild have been born ten children as follow: Corbett Burdell, who married Etta Hazelton and lives adjoining the home place; Harvey Burdette, who died at the age of five years, seven months and ten days; George Odell, who died at the age of two years, eleven months and twenty-six days; Eva Mary, who died at the age of two



years, seven months and seventeen days; Violet Ruth; Alice Elnora, Althea Jane, Chloe Marie, Wiley Homer and Edna Loetta.

William Henry Fairchild is a supporter of the Democratic party and has taken an active and intelligent interest in the political affairs of his community. He has served the citizens for four years as a member of the school board. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is active in all church work, being a member of the financial board of that church. He is a man of excellent character, a prosperous and progressive citizen and is held in the highest respect and esteem by all who claim his acquaintance.

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### JOSEPH CORFMAN.

It is a well-authenticated fact that success comes as the result of legitimate and well-applied energy, unflagging determination and perseverance in a course of action when once decided upon. She is never known to smile on the idler or dreamer, and only the men who have diligently sought her favor are crowned with her blessings. In tracing the history of the influential citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, the gentleman whose name forms the caption of this sketch occupies a prominent place. It is plainly seen that the success which he enjoys, has been won by commendable qualities, and it is also his personal worth that has gained for him the high esteem of those who know him.

Joseph Corfman was born on November 2, 1848, in Wyandot, Ohio, a son of Conrad and Mary (Riegle) Corfman. Conrad Corfman was born on July 24, 1809, in Fairfield county, Ohio, the son of parents who had come from Germany and settled in Pennsylvania, having later moved to Ohio, previous to his birth.

When he was eighteen years of age, Conrad Corfman moved to Wyandot county, Ohio, and settled near McCutcheonsville, where he remained until 1860. He then moved to Hancock county and settled in Mt. Cory, where he remained for twelve years. He later moved to five miles northwest of Mt. Cory, which was his final place of residence.

Conrad Corfman's wife, Mary Riegle, was born in 1811, in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, near Carlisle, a daughter of George and Catherine Riegle, who were natives of Pennsylvania. They came to Wyandot county, Ohio, when Mary Riegle was ten years of age. Conrad and Mary Corfman were the parents of twelve children, who were, Phillip; Barbara; Mary; Jacob; George; Catherine; Elias, who died at the age of four years; Magdalene; Joseph; Lydia; Sophia and Nathan.

Joseph Corfman spent his childhood four miles northwest of Upper Sandusky, Ohio. He moved to Hancock county, Ohio, in 1860, where he attended the public schools and helped his father on the farm, until he was twenty-two or twenty-three years of age. Then, for about ten years, he farmed independently and dealt in live stock on a small scale. During that time, in August, 1876, his father died, and Joseph Corfman farmed the home place for his mother for a number of years, or until the time of his marriage, in 1883.

On April 3, 1883, he married Irena Spahr, a daughter of Jesse and Margaret (Fisher) Spahr. Jesse Spahr was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, on June 21, 1825, and came to Crawford county, Ohio, with his parents when a boy. In that county he grew to manhood and married. During the later years of the Civil War he enlisted in the One Hundred and Fifty-fifth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served for about a year and a half, or until the end of the war. He moved to three miles north of Gilboa, Ohio, in 1852, where he entered a government farm on which he remained until his death.

Margaret (Fisher) Spahr, his wife, was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, March 30, 1827. Her father was a native of Germany and came to Pennsylvania when a young man. There he taught in the German schools until he moved from Pennsylvania to Crawford county, Ohio, during the early days of that county. It was there that his daughter married Jesse E. Spahr. To Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Spahr were born eight children, as follows: Eliza, the wife of William Lindsey, of Perth, Kansas, to whom has been born six children, four daughters living and two sons, deceased; George W., deceased, who married Eliza Blodgett, and to whom six children, one daughter and five sons were born; Oliver F., deceased, who married Loretta Huntsman, and to whom five sons and one daughter were born; Irene S., the wife of the subject of this sketch; Lenora, unmarried, who lives in Liepsic, Ohio; Benjamin, who died at the age of eight years; Effie May, who died when fourteen months of age, and Orvel, who died at the age of ten.

Irene S. Spahr, the wife of Joseph Corfman, was born in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, on April 19, 1853. In that place she spent her girlhood and attended the common schools, after which she took special normal work at Leipsic, Ohio, and at Ottawa, Ohio. At the age of fourteen she began teaching school, and continued to teach for fifteen terms, or until she was twenty-eight years of age, when she married Joseph Corfman. During her years of teaching, she continued to live on the old home place where she was born, and where she was later married.

On April 4, 1883, after their marriage, Joseph Corfman and wife moved to Henry county, Ohio, where they settled six miles northwest of Bellmore. The following summer, Mr. Corfman sold his farm and moved to Leipsic, Putnam county, where, for four years, he operated a meat market. He then sold his market in Leipsic and moved to Mt. Cory, Hancock county, where he again engaged in the meat market business and followed it for two years. He then went into partnership with H. J. Rutledge and opened two more markets in Findlay, Ohio. He then sold his interests to his partner, and for two years engaged in the wholesale meat business until 1895, when he returned to Blanchard township, Putnam county, where he occupied the Spahr farm, at first buying forty acres, and later, eighty acres of that farm.

In January of 1910, Mr. Corfman moved to the northeast part of Blanchard township, on the old Ridge road, where the family now live. Mr. Corfman has improved and developed the farm until it ranks well up among the best farms of his section. He operates it as a general farm. Mr. Corfman has always been known as a man of high ideals and sound business integrity. He is held in the highest esteem by his neighbors and has always held the respect of all who have had dealings with him.

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#### ROBERT W. KISSELL.

Representing one of the oldest and best known families of Continental, Ohio, Putnam county, and a man of enterprising and sterling worth of character, Robert W. Kissell, a well-known produce dealer, of Continental, Ohio, is entitled to notice among the substantial business men of this section of the state, and it is with much satisfaction that the brief sketch of his life career is herewith given.

Robert W. Kissell was born on November 30, 1871, at Columbus Grove, Ohio. He is the son of John H. and Elizabeth (Sterling) Kissell. Mr. Kissell grew up in Columbus Grove, Ohio, and was educated in the common schools and in the high school. He was graduated from the Columbus Grove high school in 1889 and attended Wooster University for two years, during 1890 and 1891. After taking the course at Wooster University, he came back to Columbus Grove, Ohio, and worked for several years with his father in the poultry business. He moved to Continental, Ohio, in 1899, where he immediately entered the poultry and produce business. Mr. Kissell is still actively engaged in this business. He enjoys a lucrative patronage and is a very popular man and a good "mixer" with the people of this community.

He is congenial in his manners and frank in his dealings with his fellow men. He is extremely interested in public improvements and a progressive citizen in every way. Mr. Kissell has a fine home in Continental and is favorably known as a shrewd, able business man and, nevertheless, one who is upright and straightforward in all of his dealings.

Robert W. Kissell was married on March 26, 1902, to Florence Crawford, who was born in Columbus Grove, January 12, 1873, and who is the daughter of Alonzo and Mary (Scott) Crawford. Mrs. Kissell grew to womanhood at Columbus Grove and was graduated from the Columbus Grove high school with the class of 1890. After leaving high school, she attended the Lima Business College and worked for her father in the gristmill at Columbus Grove. She is now a most valuable aid to her husband in his business. She is an expert bookkeeper and a splendid business woman.

Alonzo Crawford was a native of Union township, having been born near Kalida, Ohio. He died on September 24, 1914, at the age of seventy-six years. Mrs. Crawford is still living at Columbus Grove. Mr. Kissell's father died on November 23, 1912, and his mother died on May 16, 1902. They were well-known and highly-respected citizens of this community.

Robert W. Kissell is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons Lodge No. 570. He is a member of the council and chapter at Ottawa, Ohio. Mr. Kissell is a stanch Democrat. He served as town clerk of Continental for nine years and also as township treasurer for two terms, which office he still holds. Mr. Kissell also served as councilman for one term. Mrs. Kissell is a member of the Methodist church at Continental, but Mr. Kissell is not identified with any church.

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#### CHARLES C. SCHAFER.

The Schafer family is one of the very oldest in Putnam county. The family was established by William Schafer, a native of Koenig Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, who came to America with his parents, in 1854, and settled in Sugar Creek township. This was more than sixty years ago, and ever since that time, members of the Schafer family have been conspicuous in the civic, political and religious life of Putnam county. Many of the Schafers have been farmers, but not all of them. Charles C. Schafer, a representative of the third generation, is a prominent grain and coal dealer at North Creek, Ohio. Mr. Schafer, however, was reared on the farm, but he has been



MR. AND MRS. CHARLES C. SCHAFER.



engaged in his present business practically ever since his marriage, for a period of about fifteen years.

Charles C. Schafer was born on September 26, 1874, in Palmer township, Putnam county. His parents were William and Mary (Morris) Schafer.

William Schafer married Mary Morris, the daughter of Judge Morris, August 6, 1863, and with his young wife moved to Palmer township, Putnam county, in March, 1864. Here he settled on a farm and here he and his wife resided until their deaths. At the time William Schafer and his wife moved to Palmer township, it was an unbroken forest, and all kinds of wild game were to be seen everywhere. William Schafer cleared the timber from most of the farm with his own hands. He was active in politics and held many offices of trust, most of which came as a consequence of his nominations received by the Democratic party, with which he was identified throughout his life. In April, 1867, he was elected justice of the peace of Palmer township and held this office for twelve consecutive years, or until his death. He also served two terms as township treasurer and one term as township trustee. He was elected county commissioner in 1875, and held this office for two terms of three years each. He served as postmaster of North Creek, Ohio, beginning in March, 1879, and holding the office until McKinley was elected president.

Charles C. Schafer was one of twelve children born to his parents. These children were as follow: Henry P., on September 11, 1864; John S., February 18, 1866; Margaret Catherine, September 19, 1867; William W., December 17, 1869; George Lewis, December 12, 1871; Charles C., September 26, 1874; Sarah E., August 22, 1876; Mary Emaline, June 17, 1878; Ida Lavina, August 19, 1880; Benjamin F., August 11, 1882; Surilda Laura May, July 13, 1884, died on September 1, 1903; and Joseph J., May 19, 1887. Five of the sons and one daughter reside in Putnam county and the other children are scattered throughout different states. William Schafer died on January 1, 1903, and his wife, the mother of these children, died on October 10, 1902.

Charles C. Schafer was educated in the township public schools of Palmer township. He farmed on his father's farm until he was twenty-five years old. He was married on August 14, 1899, to Nettie Ury. She was born in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, and is the daughter of Christian and Harriet Ury. Charles C. and Nettie (Ury) Schafer have had two children, Estella H., born on July 5, 1900, and the other died in infancy. Estella H. attends the Continental high school.

About one year after his marriage, Mr. Schafer engaged in the milling business at North Creek. Here he operates a grain elevator. He has built up a splendid patronage and not only enjoys a good trade in this business, but also has a good business in the retail sale of coal. Mr. Schafer is not only popular in a business way, but he is popular socially, in Palmer township. He is now serving as township treasurer and has served as a member of the school board. Mr. Schafer is a Democrat. Mrs. Schafer and her daughter, Estella, are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

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### HERMAN McDOUGLE.

A prominent farmer of Putnam county, Ohio, who is now living a retired life in Ottawa, is Herman McDougale, who was born in this county more than half a century ago. His parents were early settlers in this county, in Blanchard township, where he taught school for nearly a quarter of a century and where he has served as treasurer of Putnam county, making his home in Ottawa since taking this office ten years ago.

Herman McDougale, the son of John and Eliza (Beach) McDougale, was born in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, on February 14, 1859. His father was born in West Virginia, where he grew to manhood and then moved to Licking county, Ohio, where he married Eliza Beach. She was born in Essex county, New York, the daughter of Joseph and Rebecca (Hays) Beach, and came with her parents to Licking county, Ohio, and later to Putnam county, where the Beach family located, in 1863.

John McDougale and wife came to Putnam county and settled in the black swamp, in Blanchard township about two miles from Leipsic. They started in with forty acres; a dense forest surrounding his cabin on all sides. He and his wife bore the hardships of pioneer life nobly, and reared six children in the log cabin which was their first home. John McDougale died in early manhood and left his widow with six young children, Joseph, Melinda, Harvey, Herman, Meredith and George. The widow bravely undertook the rearing of these children and continued to reside on the farm where she and her husband had settled the remainder of her life.

When he was fourteen years of age, Herman McDougale started out West with a pistol to shoot Indians. He got as far as Illinois and there found an uncle, William McDougale, a brother of his father. His uncle was a fine man and an influential citizen of the community where he resided.



He took young Herman in and gave him a good home, where the lad attended school, and where his uncle and aunt gave him the same care and attention which they accorded their own family of children. His uncle even paid him for his work, so that, after three years, he not only had the rudiments of a good, common school education, but had been taught to work and save his money. When he was seventeen, Herman McDougale returned to Putnam county, Ohio, and lived with another uncle, John L. Buckland, in Blanchard township, whose wife was a sister of Mr. McDougale's mother. John L. Buckland was born in Rutland county, Vermont, and came to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1852, from Licking county, this state. He became a well-known and successful farmer in Blanchard township. He and his wife reared a family of seven children, and in the home of his uncle Herman McDougale lived until he reached manhood. He attended the country schools and applied himself so diligently that when he was through the common schools of Blanchard township, he was able to secure a teacher's license, and for the next twenty-four years he taught school in one neighborhood in Palmer township, and during this time saved his money and invested it in land.

Herman McDougale has been a life-long Democrat, although not a partisan. While living in Palmer township, he served as treasurer of the township for eighteen consecutive years. He was elected treasurer of Putnam county in 1904, and at that time moved to Ottawa, where he has since resided. While in this office, he handled about one million dollars a year, and so ably and conscientiously did he administer this trust that he won the high commendation of his fellow citizens, irrespective of their political affiliations.

Herman McDougale was married on January 15, 1882, to Martha Maidlow, who was born in Blanchard township, and is the daughter of John and Lucinda (Dodds) Maidlow. Having no children, they adopted Bertha, Haveliland and Paul Maidlow, whom they raised and educated. Paul, who married Blanch Bailey, now lives in Oklahoma.

John Maidlow, the father of Mrs. McDougale, was a native of England, his birth having occurred there on February 11, 1812, and, in 1820, was brought to America by his parents who located in Baltimore, Maryland, but later returned to England, where the mother and one daughter died. The father then returned to Baltimore, bringing the remainder of the family with him, where he resumed his trade of brickmason. To his first marriage were born three children, John, father of Mrs. McDougale; Harry and a daughter who died in England. To his second marriage were born three children, Mary, Georgia and Charles.

John Maidlow was reared in Baltimore, Maryland, until he was fourteen

years of age when he came to Ohio and found employment in Knox county, on a farm. He came to Putnam county in 1837 and entered forty acres of land in Blanchard township, in section 17, and in the fall of that year erected a cabin. In March, 1838, he brought his family to this county, where he lived the remainder of his life. He added to his original purchase, from time to time, until he had accumulated a farm of eight hundred acres in one tract. He erected a fine brick residence and became one of the largest and most substantial farmers of the township. He was a Whig in earlier years, but, in 1856, became a Democrat and continued to vote the Democratic ticket as long as he lived. He served two terms as township trustee and gave his fellow citizens satisfactory service in this capacity. He married Lucinda Dowde, the daughter of William Dowde, to which union fourteen children were born, eleven of whom grew to maturity: James S.; Mrs. Elizabeth Conine; Mrs. Ann Sandel; William, deceased; Mrs. Rebecca J. Buckland; Mrs. Agnes Wolford, deceased; Mrs. Alice Brooks; Alfred S.; Putnam; Mrs. Lenna Huntzman and Mrs. Martha McDougale.

Herman McDougale is a thirty-second degree Mason, and a charter member of Toledo consistory and a noble of the mystic shrine. He and his family are adherents of the Methodist church.

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#### STEPHEN A. KAGY.

Practical industry, wisely and vigorously applied, never fails of success. It carries a man onward and upward, brings out his individual character and acts as a powerful stimulus to the efforts of others. The greatest results in life are often attained by simple means and the exercise of the ordinary qualities of common sense and perseverance. The every-day life, with its cares, necessities and duties, affords ample opportunities for acquiring experience of the best kind and its most beaten paths provide a true worker with abundant scope for effort and self-improvement. In this connection, it is frequently observed that the man who starts with no capital other than his own determination and industry achieves success far greater than that of his neighbors, who started in life with far greater advantages.

Stephen A. Kagy was born in Bloomville, Seneca county, Ohio, on June 6, 1877, a son of Benjamin F. and Barbara (Miller) Kagy. Benjamin Kagy was born in Seneca county, Ohio, on August 30, 1840, a son of Abraham and Elizabeth Kagy, both of whom were born in Pennsylvania.

Benjamin Kagy moved to Blanchard township, Putnam county, in the spring of 1878, and settled on the Sugar Ridge road, about four miles east of Leipsic, where he bought one hundred and eighty-five acres of farm land. That land he continued to farm until the time of his death, August 21, 1892.

Benjamin Kagy's wife, Barbara Miller, is a native of Germany and a daughter of Christopher Miller and wife. She came to America with her parents when she was a child and settled in Seneca county, Ohio, where she lived until her marriage with Benjamin Kagy. Benjamin and Barbara (Miller) Kagy were the parents of five children, as follow: Stephen, the subject of this sketch; Henry, who married Rena Parker and lives in Wood county, Ohio, and has two children, Vitus and Donald; Nettie, the wife of David Devore, and the mother of two children, Almo and Franklin; Anabelle, the wife of B. F. Davis of Ada, Ohio, and the mother of one daughter, Dorothy; and Myrtle, the wife of Vincent Hill of Findlay, Ohio.

Stephen A. Kagy was only nine months of age when his parents came to Putnam county. He grew to manhood on the old homestead and has made his home there throughout his life. June 9, 1898, he married Ella Devore, a daughter of George W. and Mary J. (Bracy) Devore. She was born in Hancock county, Ohio, March 19, 1881.

Mrs. Stephen A. Kagy's father, George W. Devore, was born in Carroll county, Ohio, a son of William and Fanny Devore. His wife was born in Putnam county, Ohio, a daughter of John and Mary Bracy, both of whom were natives of France. Nine children were born to George W. and Mary J. (Bracy) Devore, as follow: John, who married Dora Reid; Isaac, who married Minnie Osenbaugh; George, who married Electa Ingle; David, who married Nettie Kagy; Henry, who married Olga Cowden; Lillie, the wife of Charles Johns; Samuel, who married Mary Miller; Ella, the wife of the subject of this sketch, and Jennie, the wife of Jacob Miller.

Stephen A. and Ella (Devore) Kagy have seven children, John G., Iva, Imo, Ray, Lawrence, Dorothea and Serge, all of whom are living at home.

Stephen A. Kagy has followed general farming all his life and has met with great success in his endeavors. He started life with nothing, but has improved every opportunity and has developed his holdings until he now owns one hundred and forty-four acres of land, all in a high state of improvement.

Stephen A. is a supporter of the Democratic party and has always taken an intelligent interest in political matters, although he has never taken an active part in politics or aspired to public office. Both Stephen Kagy and wife are members of the United Brethren church and are active in church

work. Mr. Kagy is highly esteemed by all his neighbors and is regarded as being a man of pronounced energy and ability and the possessor of many sterling qualities. He is always found on the right side of every important local question which arises and has done his part toward maintaining the high standard of his community.

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### JOSEPH BORGELT, JR.

An enterprising and successful young business man of Ottawa, Ohio, is Joseph Borgelt, Jr., who has spent his entire life in this place. His ancestors, on both sides, are natives of Germany, and the same characteristics of thrift and industry which have distinguished the people of Germany have made Mr. Borgelt one of the most substantial of the younger business men of Ottawa. Starting out, before reaching his majority, as a carpenter he has branched out in the contracting business and is now one of the largest builders in the county. He owns a planing mill and lumber yard in Ottawa, where he has been operating since 1911.

Joseph Borgelt, Jr., the son of Joseph and Theresa (Smith) Borgelt, was born in Ottawa, in 1881. His father was born in the southwest corner of Ottawa township, this county, in 1856, and is a son of William and Theresa (Sliter) Borgelt, natives of Glandorf, Germany. William Borgelt and family came from Germany in 1816, and were among the earliest settlers in Ottawa township in this county.

Joseph Borgelt, Sr., was born and reared on the farm which his father entered upon coming to this county, where he lived until 1880, in which year he came to Ottawa, married Theresa Smith and engaged in the saloon business. Theresa Smith was born at New Cleveland, and is a daughter of Jacob and Margaret Smith, natives of Germany. For sixteen years, Joseph Borgelt, Sr., was engaged in the saloon business in Ottawa, at the expiration of which time he disposed of this business and has since been assisting his son, Joseph, Jr. The senior Borgelt built a large brick business block in Ottawa in 1890, which is now occupied by Joseph Brinkler.

Joseph Borgelt, Jr., was reared and educated in Ottawa and, when eighteen years of age, started to learn the carpenter's trade. Within a short time he began contracting on a small scale and, after building two small houses, built one of the largest barns in the county, about two and one-half miles southeast of Ottawa. He put a tile roof on this barn, and so well did

he do the work that the roof is still in a good condition. He bought out Frank Ellis's planing-mill in 1911 and a year later took Mr. Ellis in as a partner. They operated a planing mill and did general contracting in partnership until the death of Mr. Ellis, in 1913. Since that time, Mr. Borgelt has managed the business alone. He added a lumber yard in 1914 and bought an automobile truck in order to better take care of his constantly increasing business to a better advantage. In the summer of 1914, he furnished the building material for four houses in Leipsic, two in Ottawa, and one at Gilboa. He is also building a large business block at Continental, Ohio, as well as some houses near Ottawa. Mr. Borgelt is a practical workman, and thoroughly understands every phase of the building industry.

Joseph Borgelt was married in 1907 to Loretta Nisley, who was born in Defiance county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Henry and Maria (Langdon) Nisley, natives of that county. Mr. Nisley owns a farm near Defiance, where the family make their home.

Joseph Borgelt is a Democrat, but his business interests have consumed so much of his time that he has never been an active participant in political affairs or aspired to public office. He is a member of the Home Guards lodge. Mr. Borgelt is an active and progressive man in business affairs, and is deserving of much credit for the success which has come to him since starting out in life on his own account.

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#### RAYMOND G. CLARK.

Raymond G. Clark is one of the best known young men of Continental, Ohio. He is a young man whose fondness for athletic sport has led him into the field of professional baseball and a brilliant career is predicted for him. Just now he is under contract as a pitcher for the Evansville (Indiana) team of the Central League, and here he is expected to distinguish himself during the season of 1915. Raymond G. Clark is a young man of splendid physique and upright moral habits. He thoroughly appreciates what is expected of the successful athlete of this day and generation and has been wise enough to take the very best care of himself, that he might be fairly equipped for his chosen profession.

Raymond G. Clark was born on October 24, 1890, at Continental, Ohio. He is the son of Lloyd G. and Mary (Noirot) Clark.

Lloyd G. Clark was born at Florida, Ohio, and was the son of Hiram

and Emma (Clark) Clark. Hiram and Emma Clark, both of German descent, were born in Pennsylvania and later migrated to Florida, Ohio, where they were early pioneers. Hiram was a maker of grain cradles and a man of natural mechanical ability. He was also a splendid gunsmith and, in his prime, did much gun chocking. It was a fine trade, during his day and generation. He was an expert in the manufacture of cradles and sold many of his own make. Hiram and Emma Clark had a family of five children, Henry is deceased; William lives in Missouri; Alvera is a manufacturer of guns in Toledo; Mrs. Ella Dudley lives at Defiance; Frank, a veteran of the Civil War, lives in the Soldier's Home at Dayton, Ohio, Hiram died at Holgate, Ohio, in Henry county, in 1878, at the age of sixty-nine years, where his wife, Emma, lived as a widow for twelve years after his death and then married Sol. Sands of Leipsic, Ohio, where she lived until his death in 1907. She then purchased property in Defiance, Ohio, and moved there and died at the age of seventy-eight years, in 1911. Hiram Clark lived for some time in Florida, Ohio, and later moved to Holgate, where he followed the carpenter trade until his death. Emma Clark, his wife, was the daughter of Henry Clark and wife, but was not of blood relation to her husband. Henry Clark and wife were of German descent. They came to Putnam county when Emma was ten years of age, where they settled in Ottawa, Ohio, and were early pioneers. Henry Clark was a blacksmith and built probably the first blacksmith shop in Putnam county. He was considered an expert at his trade. He also made picks and handles. He suffered the privations of early pioneer life and often heard the whoops of Indians and the howling of wolves. He did his share toward the improvement of the county and was an industrious man.

Lloyd G. Clark, the father of Raymond G., was married on November 27, 1876, to Mary Noriot, at Napoleon, Ohio. They lived at Holgate for about seven years, where he was a blacksmith by trade. He was an expert. He owned his own shop and later sold it and moved back from Holgate, Ohio, to the farm of his wife's parents, in Henry county, Ohio, where they spent about one year. They then moved to Kalkaska, Michigan, driving overland, with a team, from Holgate, Ohio. It took a week to make the trip. Here Lloyd G. Clark built a new gunsmith shop, which he operated in connection with his blacksmith shop and a candy store. Lloyd G. was an expert gunsmith, also. It seems to be a natural art in this family. He was in Kalkaska county for about two years and then moved back to Henry county, Ohio, on his wife's parents' farm. They spent one year here and then moved to Hector, Ohio, where he again started up, as a gunsmith, where

he also renewed the blacksmith trade. After remaining here for about six years, they moved to Continental, Ohio, where he bought property and followed his trade for about six years. He then took a position as expert gunsmith on a large government boat and was in that employ for about four years, when he died on January, 1899, at Erie, Pennsylvania. He was a Republican and served as postmaster at Hector, Ohio, for about six years. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Dupont, Ohio, but not a member of any church. His wife was a member of the Catholic church at Continental. Lloyd G. Clark was the father of four children, Charles and Emma are deceased; Victor, born on July 4, 1884, married Stella Hulbert, a native of Monroe township, Putnam county, Ohio. They live at Hudson, Michigan, and have had three children, Ray, Roland, deceased, and Edna May.

Mrs. Mary (Noirot) Clark was born on May 24, 1861, at Tiffin, Ohio. She is the daughter of Francis E. and Mary (Minnoes) Noriot. Francis E. Noriot was the son of Francis C. and Francois (Raclot) Noirot, Francis C. was born in the village of Boncourt, county of Nanly, department of Haute Marne, France, in 1798, and was married to Francois Raclot in 1823 at that place. They came to America, October 27, 1853, landing at Findlay, Ohio, December 8, 1853. He had a family of ten children, Francis, Claude, Mrs. Anna Little, Lawrence, Mrs. Mary Motto, John Magdalena and Nicholas are deceased. Celestian and Mrs. Velaria Joseph are living. Magdalena died in France. Lawrence came to America alone in 1856. The remainder of the eight children came with Francis C. to America. Francis C. migrated from New York to Findlay, Hancock county, Ohio, and settled there. He was a farmer, at which he worked for a short time and then came to Putnam county, Ohio, where he lived for a time. Later, they removed to Henry, settling near New Bavaria, where he died on September 26, 1866. Francis was mayor of Boncourt, France, at one time. Francois (Raclot), his wife, was born in December, 1800, and died on February 28, 1898. She also was born at Boncourt, France.

Francis E. Noirot, the father of Mrs. Mary (Noirot) Clark, was born in the village of Boncourt, France, and came with his parents, Francis C. and Francois, to America, settling in Hancock county. He remained on his father's farm and educated himself. He married Mary Minnoes, who was born in Belgium and who was the daughter of Peter Minnoes and wife who were natives of Belgium and who came to America, in 1853, when Mary was twelve years of age. They settled in Seneca county, Ohio, where Peter was a farmer and where Mary was educated and grew to womanhood.

After his marriage, Francis E. Noirot moved to Tiffin, Ohio, where he owned property and where he followed the business of knife-grinding. He also made knives. He was here for some time and later came to Putnam county, Ohio, settling on his father-in-law's farm. Peter Minnoes had previously moved from Seneca county to Putnam county, in Palmer township, where he purchased one hundred acres of land which he cleared, drained, fenced and farmed until his death. Francis E. Noirot and wife remained on this farm until the former's death. They had a family of four children, John, Mary, Rose and Katherine, all of whom are deceased. John was a soldier in the Civil War. Mary was the grandmother of Raymond G. Clark.

Raymond G. Clark was educated in the public schools of Continental, Ohio, and attended the high school until eight months before his graduation. He has traveled about the country extensively, having spent one year in the army. His fondness for local sports led him into the baseball arena. He has trained himself for a professional baseball pitcher, has served two seasons as a pitcher for the Central League association and has signed a contract with the Evansville Central League club for the season of 1915 as a pitcher. Mr. Clark has won honors on the baseball diamond and is considered a level-headed, right-handed pitcher. He has a future before him.

Raymond G. Clark was married on August 7, 1913, to Stella Josephine Bachmann, who was born in Hamilton, Ohio, June 20, 1890, and who is the daughter of Valentine and Luella (Huber) Bachmann. Valentine Bachmann was born on December 16, 1860, in Hamilton, Ohio, and is the son of Henry and Mary Bachmann, the former of whom was born in Bavaria, Germany, and who died in 1884. His wife, Mary, was born in the same place. Valentine Bachmann was educated at St. Stephen Academy, in Hamilton, Ohio, at which place he is an expert machinist. He married Louise Huber on June 22, 1888, who died on December 24, 1892. They had two children, Edward, born in 1891, at home, and Mrs. Stella Clark, the wife of the subject of this sketch. Valentine Bachmann is a member of the Socialist party. He is a member of the Bavarian Beneficiary Society and a member of the Catholic church at Hamilton, Ohio. The great-grandmother of Valentine and Louise (Huber) Bachmann's children was a great-granddaughter of John Quincy Adams, President of the United States. Raymond G. Clark is a member of the Catholic church, as well as his wife. On September 1, 1914, he purchased his present business, a restaurant, of his mother, who had been running the same for a number of years. Mr. Clark is a good business man and is well known and well liked for his congenial ways. He is a good "mixer." In politics, he is a Democrat.



Raymond G. Clark's mother was married a second time, in 1895, to Andrew Jenkins. They live at Continental and have no children by this marriage. Mr. Clark's mother is a good business woman and a hard worker. She is a saleswoman of unusual ability and has been in the restaurant business for many years. She opened one of the first restaurants in the town and made a success of the business, and is a woman who is well liked.

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### GEORGE WINKELMAN.

The parents of George Winkelman located in Putnam county, Ohio, during the Civil War, coming to this country from Germany in 1862. Mr. Winkelman was reared to the life of a farmer, although, since his marriage, he had been engaged in the wholesale business in Ottawa. A few years ago he retired from active life and is now living in the county seat, where he has made his home for the past quarter of a century.

George Winkelman, the son of Jacob and Caroline (Schwab) Winkelman, was born on August 17, 1862, in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania. His parents, both of whom were natives of Rhinefalz, Germany grew up and married in their native land. They came to America in 1862, and lived for the first year at Allegheny City. They then removed to Putnam county, Ohio, and settled on a farm in the Black swamp, about a mile north of Elm Center, in Liberty township. The country on every side, at that time, was a dense wilderness, and they started life in the midst of a primeval forest. Mr. Winkelman cleared a patch out of the woods large enough on which to build a cabin, and here the family started life in this country. The mother died in January, 1865, leaving her husband with five children living, one daughter having died before her parents came to America. The living children are, Joseph, Jacob, John H., Stephen and George. In February, 1867, Jacob Winkelman married Mrs. Mary (Hilf) Kunkle, the widow of Henry Kunkle. Mrs. Winkelman had a son and three daughters by her first marriage. In the spring of 1873, Jacob Winkelman sold his farm and moved to Tiffin, Ohio, but in the fall of the same year, returned to Putnam county and located at Glandorf, where he lived until his death, in April, 1891.

George Winkelman lived on his father's farm in his boyhood days and early in life became innured to hard, manual labor. He helped his father clear the farm and received his education in the schools of New Cleveland and Glandorf. During the summers he worked out on the farms in his

immediate neighborhood and was so occupied until he was twenty years of age. He then began working in a brick yard at Glandorf, and, for the next three years, continued at this kind of work. He then spent a year in the western part of Missouri, after which he returned to Glandorf and teamed for about three years. After his marriage, in 1889, he became a distributing agent for a brewing company doing business in Ottawa, and maintained a cold storage house where he kept the beer. He continued in this line of business until about five years ago, when he retired from active work.

George Winkelman was married, in November, 1889, to Minnie Schmiedebusch, who was born on a farm three miles west of Glandorf, and is a daughter of John Henry and Elizabeth (Schulte) Schmiedebusch. The mother of Mrs. Winkelman was born in Oldenburg, Germany, and came here with her mother and located near Glandorf among the early settlers. Elizabeth Schulte's father died in Germany. Mrs. Winkelman's father, who was also a native of Germany, came to this country after he reached manhood and settled three miles west of Glandorf. Here he married and he and his wife spent the rest of their lives on their farm west of Glandorf. Mrs. Winkelman is one of eleven children, the others being Henry, Elizabeth, Mary, Katie, Frank, William, John, Bernard, Annie, Minnie and Theresa. Mr. Schmiedebusch died on September 7, 1904, his wife having passed away on October 10, 1893.

George Winkelman and his wife and children are members of the Catholic church at Glandorf. He is independent, but has never taken an active part in the political life of his community. He owns considerable real estate in this county and Michigan.

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#### CHARLES CLINE CASS.

A successful farmer and business man of Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, is Charles Cline Cass, who came with his parents from Wood county, Ohio, to Ottawa, in 1870, and has made this county his home since that year. Mr. Cass is a graduate of Wooster University, and a man of high intellectual attainments. After leaving college, he engaged in the grain and milling business for several years, farmed for a few years, and then engaged in the hardware business in the county seat. For several years he has made his home in Ottawa, while he gives his attention to his large farm in Palmer township.

Charles Cline Cass, the son of George B. and Catherine A. (Cline)

Cass, was born at Tontogany, Wood county, Ohio, November 22, 1865. His father was a native of Wayne county, Ohio, and is a son of Levi A. and Lucy (Stanford) Cass. The Cass family is descended from English ancestry, the first members of the family locating in New England in early colonial times, and one of Mr. Cass's ancestors on his father's side, Capt. John Cass, was a member of a Massachusetts regiment in the Revolutionary War.

Catherine Cline, the mother of Charles C. Cass, was born in Wayne county, Ohio, near West Salem, and is a daughter of Samuel and Eliza (Barr) Cline. Samuel Cline was born on January 13, 1809, in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, and died in Putnam county, Ohio, October 8, 1871. Samuel Cline was a son of Conrad and Catherine (Miller) Cline and his wife, Eliza Jane Barr, was also born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, June 12, 1813. She was a daughter of John and Nancy (Davenport) Barr, and through her mother's family was related to John Randolph, of Virginia. Samuel Cline and Eliza Jane Barr were married on April 9, 1835, in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, and settled in Putnam county, Ohio, in 1852, about two miles from Gilboa. Mr. Cline became a man of prominence in his community, and was director of the county infirmary for four years, assessor for one year, trustee for five years, and a member of the school board of his township for a period of fifteen years.

After George B. Cass and Catherine Cline were married, they located on a farm in Wood county, Ohio, and Mr. Cass taught school during the winter seasons and ditched and cleared his land during his vacations. A few years after his marriage, he retired from farm life and became a telegrapher and freight agent at Tontogany, and while living there, his son, Charles Cline Cass, was born. About 1867, George B. Cass and family moved to Hebron, Indiana, where he engaged in the hardware business for about two years. He came to Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1870, engaging in the hardware business, in which line he continued until 1883. During these thirteen years in Ottawa he was very successful, and, in addition to his well-stocked store, he became the owner of about thirteen hundred acres of land, and also owned a considerable amount of property in Ottawa. George B. Cass disposed of his hardware business in 1883 and devoted all of his time and attention afterward to his extensive property interests. He was an ardent worker in the cause of temperance, and an active and earnest worker in the Presbyterian church. At various times he was trustee of his church and also served as superintendent of the Sunday school. He was a man of much more than ordinary ability and, although his work as a public-spirited

citizen was widely recognized, he was never a seeker after office and rather avoided publicity of any kind. He was very desirous of seeing all of his children well educated and, before his death, had the satisfaction of seeing four of them graduated from one of the excellent universities of Ohio, while two others were in attendance at the university at the time of his death. Six children were born to George B. Cass and wife, Levi A., Charles C., Catherine, Ora E., R. B. and Lucy B. Levi A. is now the editor and proprietor of the *Western New Yorker*, of Warsaw, New York; Charles C. is the subject of this sketch; Catherine is the wife of Charles C. McMichaels, of Jackson, Michigan. She is a fine musician and has been an instructor in music ever since she graduated from a musical college; Ora A. is the wife of W. C. Morrey, a wheel manufacturer of Jackson, Michigan; R. B. is a newspaper publisher at Aurora, Indiana; Lucy B. is the wife of R. G. LeBrond, who is a newspaper man and was formerly editor of the *Putnam County Sentinel*, and for many years he has been the political writer for the *Toledo News-Bee*, and now makes his home in Toledo. The father of these six children died on July 3, 1895, at the age of fifty-eight, and his widow passed away early in the summer of 1902.

Charles Cline Cass was two years of age when his parents moved from Wood county, Ohio, to Hebron, Indiana, and five years of age when they permanently located in Ottawa. After completing the course of education in his home schools in Putnam county, Mr. Cass entered Wooster University and graduated in the spring of 1888, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Three years later the university conferred upon him the degree of Master of Arts. For seven years after leaving the university, he engaged in the grain and milling business at Leipsic. After his father's death, he sold his grain and the milling business and managed his father's large estate until it was divided among the heirs, several years afterward. He then moved to his own farm in Liberty township, six miles west of Leipsic and farmed for three years. He was a large corn and wheat raiser, besides always keeping cattle, hogs and sheep on his farm. After living on his farm for three years, he moved to Ottawa, and for the next two years engaged in the hardware business. He then disposed of this business and has since devoted his time to the general management of his large farm in Palmer township. He was associated with the Ottawa Sugar Company in its agricultural department during the two years it operated its plant at Ottawa, afterward going with the Holland-St. Louis Sugar Company when they took over part of the best acreage written in the Ottawa territory.

Charles C. Cass was married on April 27, 1892, to Ada Timmerman,

of Leipsic, who was a native of that city and is a daughter of Dr. John D. and Mary (Leonard) Timmerman. Mr. Cass and his wife are the parents of five children, Abigail Mildred, George B., John Leonard, Ruth Marion and Charles Timmerman.

John D. Timmerman, M. D., the father of Mrs. Cass, was born March 7, 1839, at Cincinnati, and was a son of Diedrich and Catherine (Meyer) Timmerman. Doctor Timmerman and his wife were married at Cincinnati, June 7, 1859, and settled in Putnam county, Ohio, in 1866. His wife, Mary Leonard, was born in Cincinnati, May 11, 1842, and was a daughter of Jacob and Lydia Leonard. Doctor Timmerman was in the Sixth Regiment, Independent Ohio Cavalry, and was wounded on September 6, 1862, at Washington, North Carolina. After the close of the war, he returned to Putnam county, and practiced medicine and surgery at Leipsic until his death, November 1, 1908. His wife had passed away in January, 1897. Doctor Timmerman was a prominent and influential citizen of Leipsic, from the close of the Civil War until his death, and took an active part in all of the affairs of his community.

Charles C. Cass has always been an active worker in the Republican party, and, while living in Leipsic, was clerk of the village for two terms. In 1914 he was nominated by his party to represent the thirty-third Senatorial District, composed of Wood, Hancock, Fulton, Henry and Putnam counties in the state Legislature, and was elected to that seat on November 3, 1914.

Charles C. Cass and his family are earnest members of the Presbyterian church, where he has been a ruling elder for the past twenty-five years. Mr. Cass is a member of the Masonic fraternity, is a member of the Knights Templar and member of the consistory. He also holds his membership in the Knights of Pythias.

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### JOHN P. BAILEY.

John P. Bailey was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, on September 12, 1853. Laura Edgecomb, to whom he was married, on September 2, 1875, was born in Allen county, Ohio, on July 16, 1855. The children of John P. and Laura (Edgecomb) Bailey are as follow: Arthur C., born on August 17, 1876; died on November 9, 1879; Maggie M., May 2, 1878, died on October 5, 1880; Lena B., July 21, 1881; Bessie I., July 5, 1884; George E., August 16, 1886; Thayer E., July 8, 1890; Ralph E., December 8, 1893, and Alva E., February 24, 1898, died on February 10, 1914.

## JOSEPH C. WANNEMACHER.

Joseph C. Wannemacher is one of those men who win life's battles by sheer force of personality and determination coupled with sound judgment and keen discrimination in whatever is undertaken. Mr. Wannemacher has shown himself to be a man of ability and honor and always ready to lend his assistance in defense of principles affecting the public good. He has ably and conscientiously served the community of Ottoville and vicinity as president of the Ottoville Bank Company, and in other phases of financial, commercial and civic life, and has so conducted himself as to earn the unqualified endorsement and support of his fellow citizens.

Joseph C. Wannemacher was born on December 23, 1861, in Ottoville, Ohio. He is the son of Charles and Stephania (Fournier) Wannemacher. Charles Wannemacher, the father of Joseph C., was born on January 7, 1837, and came to the United States with his parents at the age of fourteen years. He had received a good common school education in his native village. After his arrival in this country and in Ohio he gained the key to the English language by spelling out the signs on the stores and the advertisements displayed on fences till he slowly interpreted their meaning. At Bel-  
fast, Ohio, he learned the shoe-making trade, serving one and one-half years apprenticeship and later becoming a competent workman. He then spent a few years in Cincinnati as a journeyman and, finally, returned to Ottoville, where he engaged in business for himself for sixteen years. He kept a shoe store in 1873, and was elected county commissioner of Putnam county, serving two terms. Subsequently, he engaged in the hardware business where he made great commercial progress, becoming one of the prominent and wealthiest citizens of Ottoville.

Charles Wannemacher was married on July 9, 1860, to Fannie Fournier, the only child of Joseph C. and Mary C. (Oberhauser) Fournier. They were natives of the Province of Lorraine, France, their daughter having been born in their native land. Upon coming to this country, they settled in Monterey township, Putnam county. Charles and Fannie (Fournier) Wannemacher, the parents of Joseph C., were stanch Catholics, both dying in the faith, the father on January 5, 1898, and the mother, August 29, 1890.

The grandfather of Joseph C. Wannemacher, who was John Wannemacher, was born in Prussia and was a locksmith by trade. He was married, in his native village, to Theresa Dierringer, and sailed with his wife and eight children to the United States from Antwerp, Belgium, March 10, 1852, in



JOSEPH C. WANNEMACHER.





the ship "Edwina." After a voyage of forty days, they landed in New York on April 23, 1852, and came directly to Ottoville, which contained, at that time, but two buildings, one log and one frame. They settled on a small farm one and one-half miles from Ottoville, living there the remainder of their lives.

Joseph C. Wannemacher, the subject of this sketch, was one of eleven children. He received his education in the public schools of Ottoville, and attended the high school of Ottawa, Ohio, for two years. He also clerked in a dry goods store, at Ottawa, for a time, and after that taught school for two terms. During the summer of 1881, he went to work in his father's store, in Ottoville, and, in 1886, he became a partner with his father in the hardware and implement business. This partnership continued until 1898, when the father died. The business is now being managed under the firm name of Charles Wannemacher's Sons. It is the largest hardware and implement store in the county.

Joseph C. Wannemacher is now, and has been for many years, the president of the Ottoville Bank Company. The articles of incorporation for this bank were signed on September 13, 1903, by F. J. Maehlmann, John J. Miller, J. C. Wannemacher, Alphons A. Roth and F. F. Vincke for the purpose of doing a general banking business and with a capital stock of twenty-five thousand dollars. On October 24, 1903, a charter was given to the Ottoville Banking Company by the secretary of state. The bank opened for business on February 1, 1904. It now has a surplus of twenty-seven thousand five hundred dollars. This bank was placed on the roll of honor in 1911. The present officers of the bank are Joseph C. Wannemacher, president, John C. Miller, vice-president, F. J. Maehlmann, cashier, and E. Maehlmann, assistant cashier. The directors are Benedict Wannemacher, J. H. Wannemacher, J. C. Wannemacher, John J. Miller and F. J. Maehlmann.

Reverting to Mr. Wannemacher's parentage, he is the eldest of seven living children, four having died in infancy, John, the second child, lives in Ottoville. He married Katharine Barholzer, and they have two children, Sophia and Alma. Mrs. John Wannemacher is deceased; Jacob F. lives in Ottoville; Stephen lives in Cloverdale; Alex lives in Ottoville and is a partner in a store with Joseph C. He married Anna Jervers and they have one daughter, Dorothy; Fanny lives in Ottoville; Charles died at the age of twenty-two years.

Joseph C. Wannemacher was married on May 8, 1878, to Anna Schneider, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Kieffer) Schneider. Mr.

Schneider was born in Alsace, France, now a part of Germany. Mrs. Schneider was born in Luxemburg. They came to the United States early in life and settled in Crawford county, Ohio. To Joseph C. and Anna (Schneider) Wannemacher, seven children have been born: Martin, on June 24, 1889, graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor; Urban F., July 18, 1891, is a tinner by trade and works in his father's store at Ottoville; Monica, June 21, 1893, graduated from the Ottoville schools and is now teaching school; Arnold, December 25, 1895, graduated from the Lima Business College and assists his father in the store; Fanny, November 19, 1897, attends the Ottoville schools; Elnora, November 28, 1899, and Margaret, June 15, 1902, are at home.

Joseph C. Wannemacher is a Democrat. He was clerk of the town of Ottoville for eighteen years and is the present mayor of the town, having taken this office in January, 1912. He was a member of the building committee for the county court house at Ottawa. Mr. Wannemacher is also vice-president of the Ottoville school board. All of the members of the Wannemacher family are devoted to the Catholic church and are prominent and influential in this church. Few families are better known in this part of Putnam county than that of Joseph C. Wannemacher, and few men occupy a higher place in the esteem of his fellow citizens than the subject of this sketch.

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#### COLUMBUS E. DANGLER.

The founders of the Dangler family, in America, were John and Barbara (Kaler) Dangler, natives of Germany who settled in America early during the last century. Their first home on this continent was in Union county, Pennsylvania, where Columbus E. Dangler's father was born. Later, in 1837, they came to Putnam county, Ohio, and settled in section 11, of Greensburg township, where they remained for many years. They were pioneer farmers and enterprising German citizens during the early history of Putnam county. Columbus E. Dangler, a representative of the third generation of the Dangler family, was born and reared on a farm, but early in life engaged in various pursuits. Subsequently, however, he abandoned business life for the farm and is now living on a tract of one hundred and five acres in Jackson township, which he owns.

Columbus E. Dangler was born on May 6, 1859, in section 22, of Greensburg township. His parents were Jacob and Susanna (Guy) Dangler, the

former of whom was born about 1814, in Union county, Pennsylvania, and who, after his parents had brought him to Putnam county, Ohio, lived on the homestead farm during his early manhood. He assisted his father in the cultivation of the farm until his marriage, in 1842, to Susanna Guy. She was the daughter of Jesse and Jane (Schurtz) Guy, who also came early to Putnam county, having established a home here in 1838. They came from Columbiana county, Ohio, and it was here that Susanna Guy was born. After coming to Putnam county, they made their home in Greensburg township, where they purchased and developed a farm.

Jacob and Susanna Dangler had twelve children, Barbara, deceased; John K.; William S.; Sarah E., who is now Mrs. Ayres; Henry J.; Jacob G.; Mary E., who is now Mrs. Ridenour; Anna N.; Columbus E.; George A.; Lydia C., who is now Mrs. Taylor, and Daniel E. Jacob Dangler died in 1886, on his farm in Greensburg township, and his wife died in 1904. The Guy family was of Revolutionary stock, some of Mrs. Dangler's ancestors having in the War of the Revolution fought valiantly against the British oppression.

Columbus E. Dangler was reared and educated in Greensburg township. He lived the life of the average farmer's son and, at the age of twenty-one years, engaged in the saw-mill business. He also operated a portable saw-mill and threshing outfit and did work for a large number of farmers in Putnam county. He was engaged in this business for eighteen years. During this period, however, Mr. Dangler devoted some time to farming. He was married on March 24, 1889, to Margaret Caton, a native of Franklin county, Ohio, and the daughter of Richard and Julia (Cavanaugh) Caton. Richard Caton was born in Franklin county, Ohio, July 4, 1845, and died on August 20, 1906. His wife was born in Ireland, in County Kilkenny, August 19, 1847. She came to America with her parents at the age of eight years. Her parents were Bryan and Mary (Collins) Cavanaugh, who settled in Franklin county, Ohio, where their daughter, Julia, was reared, educated and married. Richard Caton and wife had seven children, Mrs. Margaret Dangler; James, who lives in Pleasant township; Mrs. Mary Deveaux, of Defiance, Ohio; John, who lives in Detroit, Michigan; Philip, who lives in Defiance; Mrs. Emma Hale, who lives in Defiance; and Theresa, deceased. Mrs. Richard Caton is still living and makes her home the greater part of the time in Defiance with her children.

After Mr. Dangler's marriage, he continued to reside on the homestead farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Greensburg township. Of this farm, he owned one hundred and thirteen acres himself and farmed it for a time,

but, in 1902, sold the farm and purchased one hundred and five acres, in section 17, of Jackson township. He remained on the old homestead farm, however, for two years, after buying the farm in Jackson township. For a time, he operated a brick kiln and tile-mill and also a saw-mill on the Greensburg township farm. He moved to Defiance in 1904 and there conducted a wood yard for several years. He moved back to his farm of one hundred and five acres in Jackson township in 1912, and since that time has been actively engaged in farming it.

Columbus E. and Margaret (Caton) Dangler have had three children, Josephine, who was born on October 25, 1891; Alva E., February 2, 1896, and Genevieve, March 27, 1908. Josephine married John Myer and lives in Union township. He is a prominent farmer of this township; Alva E. and Genevieve are both at home.

Columbus E. Dangler is more interested in his home and his family and his farm than he is in participation of public affairs. Nominally, he is identified with the Democratic party, but he is more or less independent in his voting. The Dangler family are members of the St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida. Mrs. Dangler is a member of the Mothers' Society. The Dangler family are people of pleasing dispositions and all are prominent in this section.

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#### MARTIN GEBHARDT.

One of the well-known, native-born German farmers of Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, who was brought to this country by his parents when an infant, is Martin Gebhardt. Mr. Gebhardt has prospered in his adopted country and is a highly-respected citizen in the township where he lives. Since coming to this country, he has married, reared a large family of children and acquired a competence for his declining years. Mr. Gebhardt is one of the large farmers of this township, although a part of the land which he operates is rented. He is a good farmer, a good citizen and a good neighbor and is well liked by all the people of his community.

Martin Gebhardt was born on December 3, 1855, in Germany. He is the son of John Jacob and Margaret (Keppel) Gebhardt. Mr. Gebhardt's paternal and maternal grandparents were natives of Germany and lived and died in that country. Mr. Gebhardt's father was born in Byrne, Germany, and, before coming to this country, had followed farming, and also worked as a cloth weaver in his native country. He was married in Germany and

landed in America in October, 1857. After a brief sojourn in New York city, the family went to Chicago, where they lived for three years. Leaving Chicago, they came to Defiance county, Ohio, and purchased a farm in Highland township, where they remained for some time, when he moved to Richland township, Defiance county, on a farm he had purchased of seventy-eight acres. Here he remained until his death, May 8, 1875. His wife, the mother of Martin Gebhardt, died on August 16, 1912, at the age of eighty years. Their children were as follow: Martin, the subject of this sketch; John, who died in infancy; Edward, deceased; John, deceased; Mrs. Margaret Surprise; Nicholas; Mrs. Wilhelmina Lenhart, and Adolph.

Martin Gebhardt was two years of age when he came to America with his parents. He was educated in Defiance county, principally in Highland and Richland townships. He remained on the home farm until his marriage, which took place on November 13, 1881. He was married to Elizabeth Boehm, who was born in Richland township, Defiance county, and who is the daughter of Nicholas and Margaret Boehm. Nicholas Boehm and wife came from the same part of Germany as Mr. Gebhardt's parents. They settled in Defiance county on a farm of forty acres and remained there until their death.

After his marriage, Mr. Gebhardt rented a farm of eighty acres, in Flat Rock township, Henry county, where he lived for six years. He then moved back to the home place in Richland township and here he lived until 1894. In the fall of that year he purchased a farm of forty acres in Palmer township, Putnam county, which he later increased to eighty acres. He erected buildings and made many improvements upon the land, cleared a part of the farm which was heavily timbered, drained and fenced it. He erected a fine residence in 1907, having erected a barn in 1903.

To Martin and Elizabeth (Boehm) Gebhardt have been born eight children, Cora, on December 3, 1882; William, February 16, 1884; Minnie, July 21, 1886; Ernest, March 23, 1889; Albert, January 12, 1892; Carl, January 10, 1895; Florence, July 18, 1897; and one who died in infancy. William married Mrs. Elsie (Boyd) Grant and lives in Palmer township. They have two children and one who died in infancy. Cora lives at home. Minnie married J. J. Brown, of New Bavaria, Henry county, and has four children living and two dead. Ernest married Agnes Dirr, of Palmer township, Putnam county. The remainder of the children are at home. Mrs. Martin Gebhardt died on August 25, 1900.

Besides farming his own land, Mr. Gebhardt and his sons farm other land. In 1914, with the help of his sons, he farmed more than three hun-

dred acres. Mr. Gebhardt has splendid stock and believes in handling the best breeds of horses and cattle. He has raised Herefords but is now raising Durham cattle.

Fraternally, Mr. Gebhardt is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 745, at Pleasant Bend, and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, No. 869, at Continental. Mr. Gebhardt has held the highest offices in the Knights of Pythias and is now vice-chancellor. Politically, he is a Democrat. He is now serving his second term as township trustee, having been re-elected after serving one term. He has also served as school director and a member of the board of education. Mr. Gebhardt and family are members of the Reformed church at New Bavaria. Martin Gebhardt is popular in the community, an able farmer, industrious and prudent in all the relations of life.

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### JOHN C. HAUGHN.

Generous and loyal, interested at all items in the welfare of his community and the owner of a splendid farm in Liberty township, is John C. Haughn, who was born in Franklin county, Ohio, July 19, 1843, the son of George W. and Mary (Coonrod) Haughn, natives, respectively, of Virginia and Ohio.

George W. Haughn was born in 1812, and, when twenty-one years of age, came on foot to Ohio and located in the new county of Franklin and there engaged in farming. In that county, also, he married Mary Coonrod, the daughter of Wolrey Coonrod, who was one of the earliest settlers—when Chillicothe was still the capital of the state and Columbus unknown. From Franklin county, Mr. Coonrod enlisted for and served through the War of 1812. In the early days, religious meetings were held at his house, as were also the elections, and he himself was a politician and held many offices of honor and trust. He died in Franklin county, a Universalist in religion, in which faith the family were reared.

The parents of John C. Haughn were of German descent, and reared a family of eight children, Rachel, who was thrice married, first to her cousin, W. Haughn; secondly, to Alexander Adams, and thirdly, to John Duff, of Franklin county, who is now deceased; the second child, Margaret, married G. Ney, and resides in Illinois; the third child was John C., who is the immediate subject of this sketch; James M., the fourth child, is now deceased; Samuel J. lives in Morrow county, Ohio, near Ashley; the sixth child, Mary

C., is the wife of James Wade; George W. resides on the old homestead, while the youngest is Anna, the wife of Richard Stump.

John C. Haughn remained on the home place assisting his father until he reached his majority. At the age of twenty-four, in 1867, he married Nettie Taylor, who was born in Franklin county, Ohio, August 18, 1848, the daughter of Alford and Miranda Taylor, respectively, of Maryland and Pennsylvania. Alford Taylor died at the old Taylor home, February 22, 1902, at the age of eighty. His widow spent her last years with J. C. Haughn and wife, and died at their home, February 26, 1907, aged eighty years, two months and twenty-six days.

To Alford and Miranda Taylor five children were born, namely: Janet, or Nettie, the wife of John C. Haughn; Samuel, of Franklin county, Ohio; James, who died in 1891; Mary, the wife of Charles Reaves, a farmer, and Josephine, the wife of James Bell, also a farmer.

To John C. and Nettie (Taylor) Haughn the following children have been born: Charles E., who lives in Williams county, Ohio, married Bertha Werth, and they have two children, Ira and Mabel; Alford W., who lives in the north edge of Liberty township, married Emma Ebinger, who is now deceased, leaving three children, Arthur, Esther and Cloice. His second wife is Anna Leinsetter, and to this marriage have been born two children, Wilmer and Myron. Isa D., the wife of Joseph Warren, a farmer living on the north side of Liberty township, and they are the parents of five living children, Alford, Nettie, Harley, Sylvia and Florence, and three who died in infancy; Leslie S. married Emma Broomgarth, and lives near Milan, Michigan. They are the parents of six children, Myrtle, Clarence, Johnny, Margaret, Orville and Ruth; Harry S. married Lillie Yenner, the daughter of John Yenner, and they have four children, Gladys, Geneva, Thelma and Wilma. They live near Medary, in Liberty township; Floyd D. married Bertha Snyder, and lives near the central part of Liberty township. They are the parents of three children, Gale, Chester and Franklin; Goldie M. is the wife of Charles Mullett, a farmer living in the south part of Liberty township, and they are the parents of seven children, of whom there are two pairs of twins, Nellie Edna, Harold, David and Barbara, twins, and also Etta and Lettie, twins; Mary M. is the wife of Edward Neice, a farmer on the west line of Liberty township, and they have four children, Oscar, Loretta, Janetta and Bertha; Ruth A. is the wife of Arthur Sterritt, a farmer living in the east part of Liberty township, and has two children, Charley and Farley.

After his marriage, Mr. Haughn first rented a farm, on which he lived

until 1876, when he came to Putnam county and bought a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of forest land in Liberty township, and which still constitutes a part of his present farm. He now owns over three hundred and eighty-five acres, all of which is in Liberty township. Here he had to fell the first trees in order to secure a seat to sit upon, and here he settled his young family and began his business life in Putnam county. He cleared away a space in the woods, built a log cabin, settled his family in this rude home, and for the first year rented some land and cultivated, but since then has devoted his attention to his own premises. To his original tract of one hundred and sixty acres, he added land from time to time until he acquired his present splendid farm. For the first three years he failed in making crops sufficiently large for his own use on account of a superabundance of surface water, but with untiring industry and good management, Mr. Haughn has succeeded in draining his land and bringing it to a high state of cultivation and productivity. He has made many extensive improvements on the place, erecting a two-story frame dwelling-house, commodious barns and substantial and convenient outbuildings, windmill orchards, etc., and has a most desirable country home in every respect. Mr. Haughn raises a great deal of live stock for the markets, which adds not a little to his annual income, and he is regarded as one of the best farmers in the township.

John C. Haughn is a Democrat, and, as a matter of public duty, has accepted several of the minor township offices, but is far from being an office seeker. He is a man of strictest integrity and of sterling enterprise, and it is such as he who have laid the foundation for the prosperity of Putnam county.

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#### SIDNEY C. DIBBLE.

A prosperous farmer now living in Van Buren township, Putnam county, Ohio, is Sidney C. Dibble, who has been a resident of this county since 1902. Born in Lucas county, Ohio, he lived there until he was grown and then moved with his parents to Henry county, Ohio, where he lived until he came to Putnam county. He has been a life-long farmer and has been unusually successful in all of his agricultural operations, and now has one of the most attractive farms in the township, and is classed among the most progressive agriculturists.

Sidney C. Dibble, the son of William E. and Martha J. (Taylor) Dibble, was born on February 27, 1861, in Waterville township, Lucas county, Ohio.



His father's history, which appears elsewhere in this volume, may be referred to for further family data.

Sidney C. Dibble was reared on his father's farm, in Lucas county, until he was eighteen years of age. He then removed with his parents to Ottawa county, and while there he worked in a stave factory for three years. Later, his parents moved to Henry county, where his father bought a farm, which was heavily timbered. Sidney C. and his brother, William W., helped their father to clear this land and put it under cultivation. In this county Sidney C. Dibble grew to manhood, married and began to farm for himself. He and his brother bought a farm of their own in partnership in Bartlow township, Henry county, in 1887, each paying one hundred dollars as the first payment. They leased it for two years to a tenant and then Sidney lived upon it himself for one year. The brothers then traded the farm for a tract of land in Marion township, where the family had previously lived, and on this farm Sidney C. Dibble lived until 1902, at which time he sold it and bought a farm in Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio. This farm was known as the Dan Butler farm and was located about six miles northwest of Leipsic. After living on it for about ten years, he sold it and bought a farm, of one hundred and four acres, adjoining the town of Leipsic, and here he has since resided. He built a fine country home and also has a large and commodious barn on the farm. He engages in diversified farming, and handles as much stock as he can feed on his own farm.

Sidney C. Dibble was married in 1885 to Louisa Delanoy, who was born in Marion township, Henry county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Peter and Keziah (Clark) Delanoy. Her father was born in Schenectady, New York, near the Catskill mountains, and was a cooper by trade, although, after his marriage, he went to farming. Peter Delanoy and his wife moved to Henry county, Ohio, in 1861, and in 1864 Mr. Delanoy enlisted in the Civil War, but was taken down with typhoid fever and discharged on account of disability. After returning from the war, he farmed the rest of his life in Henry county, where his death occurred about fifteen years ago, his wife passing away about four years later. Keziah Clark, the wife of Mr. Delanoy, was born at Peterborough, England, and was a daughter of William Clark and wife. She came to America at the age of sixteen with her parents and located in Huron county, Ohio, where she was living when she married Mr. Delanoy.

Sidney C. and Louisa (Delanoy) Dibble have one son, Ray M., who was born in 1892. They are justly proud of the record which their son has made. After graduating from the Leipsic high school, he entered Ohio State Uni-

versity and graduated in the agricultural course in 1914, with the degree of Bachelor of Science. While in college, he took part in the various activities of college life in addition to his regular college work. He was secretary of the Commons Club, and was a member of the Methodist students' council. He won second prize, in 1912, in the individual drill in the cadets, an organization which includes a thousand students. While in the university, he joined the Students Volunteer Band, each member of which is pledged to do foreign missionary work if God permits. He was also active in the teaching of foreigners the use of English and arithmetic. He also taught colored boys, at the mission school in Columbus, and had charge of the games room. He was interested in social service work and took an active part in everything which pertained to the uplift of those less fortunate in life. Ray is of a decided literary turn of mind and has written quite a number of contributed articles for the home papers. He was formerly exchange editor of the *Ohio State Weekly*, at Columbus, but upon entering Ada Normal University, in the fall of 1914, he surrendered this position. He is now taking a course in public speaking at Ada with the intention of entering professional life.

Sidney C. Dibble and his family are all loyal members and active workers in the Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs. Dibble is a woman of education and refinement, and after attending the high school at Leipsic, taught school for three years in Putnam county. Mr. Dibble is a member of the Patrons of Husbandry at Leipsic.

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#### HENRY W. RUHE.

Among the distinguished citizens of Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, is Henry W. Ruhe, who is a son of one of the earliest pioneers of Putnam county.

Henry W. Ruhe was born in section 32, south of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1849, the son of Gerhardt Joseph and Mary Anna (Musing) Ruhe. Gerhardt Joseph Ruhe was born in Saarbeck, Germany, November 2, 1812, and died at the age of sixty-six years, December 29, 1878, on his farm south of Glandorf. He came to America in 1833 or 1834, but was married in the old country to Mary Anna Musing, a daughter of Joseph and Mary Musing. Upon coming to America, he located at once on his farm in Ottawa township, which he entered from the government. There were hordes of Indians in Putnam county at that time, and no roads had been built. In the beginning, Mr. Ruhe worked on the canal in the spring and summer and the

women at home did the planting, using hoe, spade or shovel, instead of the plow. The rich soil produced abundantly. In winter, they worked at clearing the timber from the land. Mr. Ruhe entered eighty acres, and later bought another eighty, and spent his entire life on this farm. There were twelve children in the family, of whom six grew to maturity: Barney; Mrs. Theresa Hinker; Mrs. Josephine Knueve, deceased; Henry William; Mrs. Catherine Wortkoetter and Anthony B. The father of these children died on December 29, 1878, and the mother died on August 29, 1896.

Henry W. Ruhe was married to Barbara Koenig, February 7, 1877. She was born in Liberty township, Putnam county, the daughter of Charles and Matilda (Kastel) Koenig. Her parents came from Bavaria, and were early settlers where she was born. Eight children were born to Mr. Ruhe's first marriage, Joseph, who lives in Pleasant township, married Veronica Ricker, and they have five children, Clara, George, William, Albert and Paul; Mary Anna is the wife of Henry Klemen and lives north of Ottawa, in Ottawa township; Henry, a farmer of Monroe township, near Continental, married Hannah Bensman, and they have three children, Alex, Marcella and Henry; John unmarried, lives in Missouri; Charles, a farmer of Pleasant township, married Emma Ricker, and lives in Pleasant township, and they have one son, Rudolph; Josephine, the wife of Joseph Klemen, a farmer of Pleasant township, has three children, Peter, Alexander and Sylvester; Theresa is the wife of John Segar, a farmer of Pleasant township; Rosa, unmarried, lives at home. The mother of these children died on June 4, 1897, at the age of thirty-nine years and nine months.

Henry W. Ruhe was married, the second time, on June 20, 1898, to Mrs. Mary Anna (Fredericks) Fortman. She was born in Prussia, Hanover, Germany, a daughter of Bernard Henry Fredericks and wife. She came to America with her parents about 1874, and settled near Zanesville, Ohio, near Junction City, where she married Henry Felt. He died, leaving one son, Benny, now also deceased, his death occurring when he was fifteen years of age. Mrs. Felt afterward moved to Columbus Grove, and there married Henry Fortman, who was working for the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railway Company. They moved to Ottawa and lived in that city until Mr. Fortman's death, on December 18, 1886. There were two children born to this second marriage, Maria Anna, the wife of Isaac McDowell, who lives at Continental, and a son, who died in early infancy.

Henry W. Ruhe still lives on the same farm where he was born and where he grew to manhood. His farm has never been owned by anyone but his father and himself since the Indians gave way to the white men. The

Ruhe family has cleared this land and has made a farm and home here, of which they are proud. They are well-known and highly respected in the community where they have lived so long.

The entire family are devoted members of the Catholic church at Glandorf. Mr. Ruhe's father helped to build the first log cabin church at Glandorf, where the first altar was erected by the pioneers in the wilderness. He also helped to build the second edifice and the third one, and his earthly life ended while he was in the church.

There are very few families who have contributed more to make Putnam county the rich agricultural section it is now, than that of the Ruhe family.

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### FRANK F. DROLL.

The following is a brief sketch of the life of one, who, by close attention to business, has achieved marked success in the agricultural affairs of Perry township, Putnam county, Ohio. His career is a plain record rendered remarkable by no strange or mysterious adventure, no wonderful and lucky accident and no tragic situation. Frank F. Droll is one of those estimable characters whose integrity and strong personality have gained for them meritorious recognition which their modesty does not seek. He commands the respect of the people of Perry township, and has left his mark upon the generation in which he is now living.

Frank F. Droll was born on April 17, 1866, in Seneca county, Ohio. He is the son of George and Catherine (Brown) Droll.

George Droll was born in Germany, and came to America at the age of nineteen, with his parents, George and Gertrude Droll. They settled in Seneca county, Ohio, and were farmers there. George Droll, Jr., grew up on this farm and lived upon it until some time after his marriage. He, later, sold his property and moved to near New Riegel, in Seneca county, Ohio. Here he purchased a farm of two hundred and twenty acres, and worked this land for some time. Later, he sold sixty acres and farmed the remaining one hundred and sixty acres until about twenty years before he died, when he moved to New Riegel, Ohio, and there passed his remaining days. He died on December 25, 1913, at the age of eighty-six years and five months, having been born on July 11, 1825. His wife, before her marriage, was Catherine Brown, was born on January 1, 1833, and died April 18, 1914, at the age of eighty-one. She died at their home in New Riegel, Ohio, a much respected and greatly beloved woman.

George, Jr., and Catherine (Brown) Droll were the parents of twelve children, Joseph is deceased; Mrs. Mary Brickner died in 1914; John lives on the homestead farm in Seneca county; Catherine was the fourth child; Mrs. Rosa Lichtle lives in Seneca county; Matilda is deceased; Frank F. is the subject of this sketch; William lives in Seneca county; Killian lives in Perry township, Putnam county; Edward lives in the West; Mrs. Anna Brant lives in Seneca county, and Mrs. Maggie Brant in Lorrain, Ohio. George Droll, Jr., was an ardent Democrat, and a member of the Catholic church at New Riegel. His wife, also, was a member of this church.

Frank F. Droll spent his boyhood days on the homestead farm in Seneca county, Ohio. He was educated there and reared as a farmer. He left home at the age of twenty-one years and worked out for a time. He came to Putnam county in April, 1896, and for a time lived with a brother, Killian, they having purchased a farm of eighty acres together, in Perry township, where Frank F. now lives. Later, Killian sold his half interest to Frank F. Droll. After Mr. Droll married, he farmed the entire eighty acres. There was much timber on the farm when he bought the land. Mr. Droll did most of the clearing, fencing and ditching. Since purchasing the farm he has built a fine residence and a large, commodious barn, the latter erected July, 1909, is thirty-six by sixty-six feet. He owns a splendid home and the farm is neatly kept, which shows the fine progressive spirit of its owner. Mr. Droll is a hard worker and his success must be attributed to his unconquerable perseverance from the beginning. With the help of his faithful wife, he has gained a rather large competence, and has been entirely victorious in his struggle for success.

Frank F. Droll was married on November 18, 1896, to Matilda Shirack, who was born on August 27, 1870, in Van Wert county, Ohio. She is the daughter of John and Catherine (Schulien) Shirack, both of whom were natives of Germany, the former born June 24, 1840, and the latter on August 25, 1845. Both came to America with their parents when quite young, who settled in Seneca county, Ohio, where they farmed till their death. John Shirack grew up in Seneca county, Ohio, and was reared as a farmer and it was here that he received his education. Subsequently, he came to Van Wert county, where he passed the remainder of his days. He died on June 13, 1911, at the age of seventy years, eleven months and twenty days. He was a Democrat, and a member of the Catholic church at Ottoville, Ohio. His wife was also a member of that church. She died on December 19, 1906, at the age of sixty-one years and three months. They had nine children, John; Mrs. Mary Grubenhoff, of Ottoville, Monterey township, Putnam

county; Mrs. Catherine Eickholt, of Monterey township, Putnam county; Mrs. Frank F. Droll; Mrs. Anna Kehres, of Delphos; Mrs. Emma Sheibley, of Cloverdale; Mrs. Margaret Wannamacker, of Cloverdale; Joseph, of Delphos, and one who died in infancy.

To Frank F. and Matilda (Shirack) Droll eight children have been born: Raymond, on February 20, 1898; Edith, September 1, 1899; Eva, November 9, 1900; Alvira, March 16, 1903; Wilfred, October 27, 1905; Joseph, November 15, 1907; Mary, December 27, 1909, and Gertrude, November 9, 1912. All of these children are living at home.

Frank F. Droll is not a member of any lodge, and he has never aspired to office. He is a member of St. Barbara's Catholic church at Cloverdale, Ohio, as well as his wife and family. Frank F. Droll is a congenial man, easy-going in his manner, and sociable. He is a man of strong domestic habits, a home lover, a fine husband and father and a good provider. He bears a high reputation in the community where he lives.

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### JOHN H. KLEMAN.

It is a pleasure to the biographer to record the lives of prosperous men, men who have honored their community and who are loved by their fellow men. They inspire the coming generation, as well as the present, and justly deserved mention in such a work as this. One of the most influential citizens of Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, is John H. Kleman.

John H. Kleman was born on March 28, 1852, on the farm where he now lives in the southwestern part of Ottawa township. He is the son of Andrew and Mary C. (Gerdeman) Kleman. Andrew Kleman was born in Prussia in 1805, and was a trained soldier under the grandfather of the present German kaiser. He came to America about 1835 and located near, or at, Glandorf, Putnam county, when Indians were still in the vicinity. He was a farmer. Here he married Mary C. (Gerdeman) Utendorf, the widow of Joseph Utendorf, deceased. She was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1811, and came to America and spent her first winter at Toledo, at the time the first railroad reached that city. She then came to Glandorf and married Joseph Utendorf and they lived on the farm where John H. now lives until Mr. Utendorf's death. There were two children by her first marriage, Joseph and Mary Ann, the former dying in 1885. Mary Ann was the wife of J. W. Ellerbrock and died at Glandorf in 1912. After Mr. Utendorf died she and

Mr. Kleman married and spent the rest of their lives on the farm which she owned. Here she died in 1882, her husband dying in 1859, leaving her with a family of children. She had seven by her second marriage, of whom three died before her husband. She and her children remained on the farm as long as she lived.

John H. Kleman was married to Mary Hueve in 1873. She was born northwest of Glandorf, the daughter of Joseph and Lisette (Clafor) Hueve. Her father was born in Prussia and came to America about 1840, at the age of sixteen, with his parents, Herman and Elizabeth Hueve. They located northwest of Glandorf when the country was still new.

Lisette Clafor was born in Hanover, Germany, and at the age of three was brought to America with her parents, who located southwest of Ottawa. Joseph Hueve and wife located in section 3 of Pleasant township, when Mrs. Kleman was about three years old. They located in the midst of the woods, as did the other pioneers and there spent the rest of their lives. Mrs. Hueve died in 1893 and her husband in May, 1899. They had a large family, of whom three died in infancy and three grew to maturity.

After John H. Kleman married, he continued farming where he now lives. He has served twice as land appraiser, in 1900, and again in 1910, and was trustee of Ottawa township from 1882 to 1887. Mr. Kleman has added to his original land holdings, as he was able, and now owns three hundred and ten acres. He has rebuilt his barns and houses and is a well-known and influential citizen.

John H. and Mary (Hueve) Kleman are the parents of ten children, Anna M., Joseph, Elizabeth M., Frank J., Veronica K., John, Lewis H., Carolina C., Albert L. and Adolph H. Anna M. was born on October 5, 1874, married Frank Smith. They live near Bryant, Indiana, and have seven children. Joseph G., March 8, 1876, married Lizzie Meyer. They live three miles northeast of Miller City and have four children; Elizabeth M., April 2, 1879, married John Liebrecht, and lives two miles south of Kalida. They have four children; Frank J., May 30, 1881, married November 17, 1914, to Anna Shekelhoff. They live one mile south of his father's farm; Veronica K., August 5, 1882, married to Joseph Reitz. They live at Oberlin, Ohio, have four children living; John, February 27, 1885, is still single, living at Toledo, Ohio; Lewis H., July 23, 1887, was married June 10, 1914, to Elizabeth Kreinbrink. They live just across the road from his father; Caroline C., January 2, 1890; Albert L., February 14, 1892; and Adolph H., November 13, 1895, all still resides at home.

John W. Kleman and family are devoted members of the Catholic

church at Glandorf. He also belongs to the Holy Name society and the St. Joseph society. Mr. Kleman is broad-minded, hospitable, sociable and patriotic, a worthy son of Andrew Kleman, who was a king's guard in the old country and, in 1842, upon coming to America, was appointed captain of the home guards of Ohio and was always known as Captain Kleman.

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### WILLIAM SCHLAGBAUM.

There are many enterprises which bring almost immediate success, but few of such successes are lasting. It is not so with the farming enterprise, however. Prosperity comes, if it comes at all, after long years of labor, and after an almost desperate struggle against the elements and unforeseen backsets. The German farmers have taken hold of these difficulties with great zeal, and many of them are now the leading agriculturists of Putnam county, Ohio. The Schlagbaum family have always been highly respected in Putnam county. William Schlagbaum, especially, has been a successful farmer, and he is a man who, because of his enterprising habits, and his worthy ideals, is entitled to representation in a volume which undertakes to set forth the biographical history of Putnam county's representative citizens.

William Schlagbaum was born on July 17, 1863, in Monterey township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is a son of George and Dorothy (Hille) Schlagbaum. George Schlagbaum was born in Prussia, and came to the United States when he was about twenty years old. He lived in Cincinnati for six years and was married in that city. His wife was a native of Germany, who came to the United States when about fifteen years old. George Schlagbaum and wife were the parents of ten children, five of whom lived to maturity, and four are now living: Barney, a resident of Monterey township in this county; Lucy, the wife of Frank W. Helmkamp, whose life story is told elsewhere in this volume; Mary, the wife of Fred Vincke, of Ottoville, Ohio; Anna, deceased, was the wife Nicholas Bedink, of Ottoville; William, with whom this narrative deals.

George and Dorothy (Hille) Schlagbaum moved to Putnam county, about 1855, and settled on the farm one-half mile east of Ottoville. The country was covered with timber in those days and when they came to Putnam county, they came by boat through the canal, and from it moved their furniture to the spot where they built their home in the wilderness. The furniture was hauled in a wheelbarrow. The land was cleared and carefully





WILLIAM SCHLAGBAUM.



farmed by Mr. Schlagbaum. He passed away in 1886, and his widow died in 1895.

William Schlagbaum received a common-school education. He operated his father's farm from 1884 until 1895. He was married on May 21, 1895, to Lucy Kehres, a daughter of August and Lucy (Marks) Kehres, both natives of Germany, who came to the United States with their parents when small children. August and Lucy (Marks) Kehres were the parents of five children, two of whom died in infancy, while three are still living, Henry, of Delphos, Ohio, where he is filling the office of chief of police of that city; Lucy, the wife of Mr. Schlagbaum, and Anna, the wife of Gerhard Utrup, lives in Monterey township. Mrs. Lucy Kehres died in 1889, and her husband, subsequently, married Anna Dunst, and to this second marriage four children were born: Cillia, the wife of Matthias Vondran, of Oklahoma; Lewis died at the age of twenty-one; Frances, the wife of Roy Rueb, of Oklahoma, and Walter, also living in Oklahoma. August Kehres and his second wife now live in Oklahoma.

To William and Anna (Dunst) Schlagbaum, nine children have been born. Two died in infancy and seven are still living, Alberta is attending school and will graduate in the spring of 1915; Ida, Alphonse, Martha, Walter, Agnes and George, all of whom are either at home or attending school, are the remaining children.

William Schlagbaum owns the old homestead farm of one hundred and twenty-four acres. It lies east of Ottoville, and adjoins the corporation line. Mr. Schlagbaum is a farmer and makes a specialty of high-grade stock. He has as good a farm as can be found in Putnam county. The farm is well-drained and well-improved in every respect. He has a modern house and barn. Mr. Schlagbaum has added all of these improvements himself.

William Schlagbaum is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Knights of Ohio. He and his wife are devout members of the Catholic church at Ottoville. Mr. Schlagbaum is a Democrat. He was elected a member of the board of county commissioners in 1914 and is now discharging the duties of this office in a manner which reflects credit upon the people who elected him and upon Mr. Schlagbaum himself. Previously, he served his township as trustee for two terms. He is a member of the school board and is serving his third term. Mr. Schlagbaum before this served as a member of the Putnam county fair board for two terms and resigned just after having been elected a member of the board of county commissioners. Some years ago he was a director in the bank at Ottoville, but is no longer

active in banking affairs. William Schlagbaum is a representative farmer and a highly respected citizen of Putnam county. He is a man possessed of an exceptionally keen mind and is genial in his manner, well liked by his neighbors and possessed of the confidence of all with whom he has come in contact.

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### HOMER WILLIAM PIERMAN.

Born of good old Virginia stock at a time when the conditions of living in Putnam county were far from being as pleasant as they are now, and growing up to vigorous manhood under the careful teachings of parents who had been inured to the privations and hardships of pioneer life, H. W. Pierman, one of the best known farmers in Putnam county, Ohio, reasonably may look back over his life of painstaking effort with no small degree of complacency and with a feeling that things have, after all, turned out very pleasantly for him.

Homer William Pierman was born on March 31, 1873, in the house in which he now lives, on the farm his parents wrested from the wilderness and where he has lived all his life. He is the son of Samuel and Margaret (Clark) Pierman, who were among the most highly regarded pioneer residents of Putnam county, the former of whom was a native of Virginia and the latter a native of Putnam county, her birth having occurred in Ottawa township, October 22, 1837, the daughter of James and Elizabeth (Battlefield) Clark, who came to Putnam county in 1833, and who lived just east of where the county fair grounds are now located.

Samuel Pierman, further mention of whose life in this county is contained in the biographical sketch of Charles O. Pierman, found elsewhere in this volume, was, in his day, one of the most influential men in the county. He was born in Virginia, on June 24, 1827, the son of James and Polly (Agner) Pierman, who at that time lived about ten miles from the natural bridge of Virginia, one of America's most notable natural wonders, a scenic marvel which annually attracts thousands of visitors. James Pierman was a soldier in the War of 1812, a member of one of the old families of Virginia and a man of remarkable vigor and courage, of the true pioneer breed. When Samuel Pierman was quite a small boy, his parents moved from Virginia to Putnam county, Ohio, settling about three miles from Ottawa, just west of the mouth of Riley creek. They lived at that point for about ten years, at the end of which time they moved into the northwestern part of

Pleasant township, where they spent the remainder of their lives and where they did very much toward the development along all lines of the new community. They brought to the wilderness practical knowledge and experience which their widely-scattered neighbors soon learned to rely on, and it is undoubted that their influence in that community did very much toward bringing about proper conditions of social and economic life in the formative period of the now prosperous and established farming region. James Pierman and the woman who was ever at his side, a true pioneer helpmeet, long have lain in the neighborhood burying-ground, resting well after the stern labors which their hands found to do, and the fourth generation of their descendants in that community finds conditions immeasurably easier for their having striven—"blazing the ways."

Samuel Pierman grew up amid the hardships of a pioneer life and, when the gold fever broke out in 1849, decided to join the throng of new Argonauts in the stampede to California. Going by rail as far as St. Joseph, Missouri, which was the terminus of western railway travel in that day, he walked the rest of the way across the continent. Conditions in California not being what he had expected he gave up the quest for gold, after about three years of prospecting, and returned to Putnam county. Though he did not "strike it rich" in the gold field, he did not come back entirely empty-handed, and upon his return was able to purchase a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Ottawa township. To this he gradually made additions, as his "clearings" grew, until at the time of his death he was the owner of three hundred and thirty-six acres of fine land in the county. He was an active influence for good in his neighborhood and he and his wife were ever leaders in the good works of community, being regarded with the highest respect by all who knew them. His death occurred on January 7, 1904, his wife having preceded him to the grave on March 12, 1883. Mrs. Pierman had been twice married, she having been the Widow Merritt when Mr. Pierman married her on June 26, 1860. To Samuel and Margaret (Clark) Pierman nine children were born, all of whom survived their parents.

Homer William Pierman, son of the above, was united in marriage on April 4, 1901, to Miss Nora Agner, who was born on May 26, 1881, on her father's farm in Ottawa township, not far from where she now lives, the daughter of James M. and Sarah (Crow) Agner, prominent residents of that community. To this union five children have been born, Gladys, on January 4, 1902; Glenn, July 13, 1903; Marcine, January 15, 1908; Corwin, December 25, 1912, and Idona-Dorine, April 23, 1915, a lively set of youngsters who are the continual delight of their devoted parents.

Since his marriage, H. W. Pierman has managed the old home farm, which he is constantly improving and which he has brought to a high state of cultivation. This part of the old home farm consists of one hundred and forty-five acres and includes the homestead where H. W. was born, a good brick house, a fine bank barn and other improvements in accord with the surroundings.

H. W. Pierman is a Democrat and though taking an intelligent interest in local politics, the part of all good citizens, has not included himself among the active campaigners or put himself in the office-seeking class, preferring to give such time as he has to the development of his extensive farming interests. H. W. Pierman and wife are members of the Riley Creek Methodist Protestant church and are active participants in the various good works of that organization as well as giving their personal interest to all movements having as their object the advancement of the commonwealth. Good, substantial citizens, they are very properly regarded as among the leading families of that part of the county.

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#### FRED MICHEL, JR.

The whole world over, men are striving for homes and the substantial comforts of life. The greater their desire for home and the comforts which go with the home, the greater their zeal, and the more persistent their labor. The pioneers of this country who have been successful in acquiring homes and the comforts surrounding the homes, have richly deserved the blessing. It is with pride that the biographer of Putnam county, Ohio, can point to the careers of Fred Michel, Jr., and wife, who have struggled, side by side, and who are now enjoying the fruits of their early labors.

Fred Michel, Jr., was born southeast of Ottawa, July 15, 1844. He is a son of Fred Michel, Sr., and Ursula (Betts) Michel, both of whom are natives of Bairn Menhoff, Germany. Fred Michel, Sr., came to the United States when a young man, arriving near Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1840. He engaged in farming and here married Ursula Betts.

When Fred Michel, Jr., was ten years of age, his parents purchased forty acres of land near the north line of Pleasant township, south of Glandorf. This land was heavily wooded at the time. The father died when Fred, Jr., was twelve years old, leaving four sons, Fred, Anton, Theodore and John. The widow and sons remained on the farm until the boys had reached maturity. The other three sons settling in Glandorf.

Fred Michel, Jr., was married on January 26, 1872, to Mary Neuveman. Mary Neuveman was born in Glandorf, Germany, in 1847, and is a daughter of Frederick and Katherine (Hoffman) Neuveman. She grew up in her native land, remaining there until 1871, when, with two other sisters and one brother, they came to the United States, locating at Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. Her father died in 1873, and, about 1877 her mother and two other sisters and a brother, August, also came to this county, and located at Glandorf, leaving only one child in Germany. After coming here, the mother married Joseph Becker, an expert shoemaker of Glandorf. Mr. Becker died at Glandorf, and Mrs. Michel's mother spent the last three years of her life with her son, August, who lives north of New Cleveland. Her death occurred in 1892.

After Mr. Michel's marriage, he farmed in Pleasant township, and lived there until April 1, 1889, when he and his wife moved to the farm they now occupy southeast of Ottawa, in section 36. They began with forty acres of rough land, which was uncleared and naturally not very fertile. Fred Michel and wife both worked with intense zeal to pay for their little home. They worked at night clearing away the brush and burning it. The land was wet and swampy and people told them that they would starve to death, but the young couple replied that they would take care of that, and, despite discouragements, they worked with a will, Mrs. Michel helping her husband loyally. They not only did not starve, but they prospered, and, finally, came to own two hundred acres of land. They have sold eighty acres of this to a son, and have one hundred and twenty acres remaining.

Fred and Mary (Neuveman) Michel, Jr., are the parents of eight children, five sons and three daughters, Mary, the wife of Frank Ricker, of Anaheim, California, has eight children; Caroline, the wife of Barney Ricker, living on the Kalida pike, in Union township, and they have ten children, Charles, farming eighty acres which he purchased from his parents, married Anna Heuerman, and they have three children; John, of Dayton, married Cora Lenhart, and they have one daughter, Marguerite; Agnes, the wife of Harry Noland, of Cincinnati, has five children; Joseph, living at home; August, married Selina Berger and lives in California; Louis, also a resident of Anaheim, California.

Fred Michel and wife, and all their large family are devout members of the Catholic church, and contribute liberally to the support of that church. Mr. Michel is a man of friendly, kindly disposition, and Mrs. Michel is not less so, being affable and agreeable and today is proud of the hard struggle she and her husband had to acquire the splendid competence which they now

enjoy. Not long ago they took a trip to California, to visit their children there, and enjoyed the trip immensely. They are substantial citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, and well deserve the high esteem in which they are held.

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### JOHN KOHLS, JR.

There is no positive rule for achieving success and yet, in the life of a successful man, there are always lessons which might well be followed. The man who wins success is he who can see and utilize the opportunities that come in his path. The essential conditions of human life are ever the same, the surroundings of individuals differing but slightly. When one man passes another on the highway of life to reach his goal before others who perhaps started out before him, it is because he has the power to use the advantages which probably fall within purview of the whole human race. Today among the prominent citizens and successful farmers of Putnam county is John Kohls, Jr., of Ottawa township. The qualities of keen discrimination, sound judgment and executive ability enter very largely into his makeup and have been contributing elements to the material success which has come to him.

John Kohls, Jr., was born on December 21, 1862, on the farm where he now lives, southeast of Ottawa, on the Pandora road. He is the son of John, Sr., and Margaret (Hessling) Kohls. John Kohls, Sr., was born on August 29, 1832, in Pittsburgh and was the son of Henry Kohls. Henry Kohls was born in the town of Oldenburg in the grand duchy of the same name in Germany, in 1791, and spent his boyhood days on a farm. He married Sophia Kottonbrock in 1824, who was born in the same village in 1795. They came to America in 1832 and spent one year at Pittsburgh and one year in Cincinnati. In the fall of 1835 they came to Glandorf and purchased a tract of uncleared land and hopefully set to work to clear their farm. Here they established their home and reared a family of seven children. Henry Kohls prospered and accumulated considerable property. He had begun with nothing, but at the time of his death, in 1876, he left a considerable estate to his children. His wife survived him six years. Both were members of the Glandorf Catholic church.

John Kohls, Sr., came to this country with his parents when a child and grew up at the south edge of Glandorf, where the depot is now situated. He lived here until married. He was married to Margaret Hessling, who was



born in Glandorf, Putnam county, and was the daughter of Henry Hessling and his first wife. After John Kohls, Sr., married he moved to a farm south-east of Ottawa along the south side of the Blanchard river. The farm comprised fifty-seven and one-half acres and this he bought from his father, Henry Kohls. Several years later he bought forty-eight acres from a Mr. Hollister and then purchased the Homer Sackett farm of eighty acres, along the south side of the township line. Next he bought the Krieger farm of forty-five acres, and, later, bought one hundred and three acres in the southwest corner of Liberty township. He lived on this farm, where he first settled, until his death, at the age of about seventy-nine years. There were five children in his family, four boys and one girl, Henry, John, Jr., Bernard A., William, deceased, and Catherine. As they grew up and married, he gave each son a farm and his daughter the equivalent in money. John Kohls, Sr., was engaged in the live stock business for many years. He was in partnership with several different men, first with his brother, William, and later, he did purchasing for Jordan, McDowell and others and did a big business. He died on September 1, 1911, the second day after his seventy-ninth birthday. His wife died on January 20, 1868, at the age of thirty-two, when John Kohls, Jr., was only five years old.

John Kohls, Jr., grew up on the farm southeast of Ottawa and here performed the usual tasks which fell to the lot of the country boy. On November 16, 1887, Mr. Kohls was married to Maria Rose Hohenbrink. She is the daughter of Matthias and Theresa (Huester) Hohenbrink.

Matthias Hohenbrink was born in Hanover, Germany, July 25, 1817. He lived in Germany until twenty-two years of age and then came to America and lived in Cincinnati about two months, when he came to Glandorf, Putnam county, where he worked out by the month. He worked on the canal, beginning at Delphos, working in both directions. In this way he made the money with which to buy eighty acres, about one and one-half miles northeast of Glandorf, where his family now lives. This farm was purchased before 1850, and was all a wild woods at the time, none of it having been cleared. He built a little cabin, ten by twelve feet, with a chimney of sticks and mud and had no regular windows. It was so dark that he had to open the door to get enough light. Here he "bached" for one year, when he married Katherine Halker, an aunt of J. W. Halker and a sister of William Halker, Sr. After they married, she died in a few years, leaving four children, Katherine, the wife of Conrad Wyant, and who lived near New Cleveland until her death; Mary, the wife of Ed Maag, of Pleasant township; Theresa, deceased, who was the wife of John Beckman, and John W., who lives at the west edge of Liberty township near Miller City.

In 1861, Mr. Hohenbrink married Theresa Huster. She was born in Greensburg township in 1840, and is the daughter of Henry and Katherina Elizabeth (Gaetker) Huster. Henry Huster came from Glandorf, in Hanover, Germany, and was an early settler in Greensburg township, having come in 1836. He was married in Glandorf, Germany, to Elizabeth Gaetker and lived in Greensburg township until 1864, when he moved to Shelby county, Ohio, and died there in 1867. His wife died in 1854. After Matthias Hohenbrink married, he spent the remainder of his life on the farm where he first started north of Glandorf. He bought more land and owned over two hundred acres in Ottawa township and more in Liberty township. This land is still in possession of the family. Seven children were born to the second marriage, Anna, who is the wife of David Bockrath, of Greensburg township, and has five children; Henry, who lives on the home place with his mother; Mary Rosa, the wife of John Kohls, Jr.; William, who died at the age of five years; Helena, who is at home with her mother; Fred J., who married Theresa Morman, lives in the northwestern part of Ottawa township and has five children; Matt B., who lives at home and operates the farm. The family are members of the Catholic church. Mr. Hohenbrink died on July 9, 1892. He did not seek office but, nevertheless, served as school director. His main interest, however, was his farming. He was a good farmer and a self-made man, who came to a new country with nothing but his strength, character and energy. He became well known and respected by all the people of this vicinity.

Theresa Huester was the second wife of Matthias Hohenbrink. She was born in Greensburg township and lived there until her marriage. She now lives northeast of Glandorf. Mrs. Kohls was born on her father's farm near Glandorf and lived there until her marriage.

After John Kohls, Jr., was married, he lived one year and three months in section 35, and then moved back with his father and lived there until 1905, when he moved to Ottawa. He went into the hardware business with M. O. Agner and was there until Christmas, 1907, when he sold out and moved back to the home farm, where he built a new house. He suffered quite a loss from the great flood of 1913 and had thirty inches of water in his house. The following fall he moved the house to the south side of the road, where he now lives. Some time before this, he had built a barn and other outbuildings. Mr. Kohls, Jr., now owns one hundred and forty-two acres of land. He lost much in the flood and was also hard hit by the hog cholera, but having good staying qualities, he pulled through and did well where others would have given up.

John and Maria Rose (Hohenbrink) Kohls have one son and two daughters, Margherata, Albert and Adelina. Margherata is the wife of Lambert A. Studer and lives at Townsend, Montana. She has one son, John Kohls; Albert and Adelina are at home. Margherata's husband, Mr. Studer, has a fine hardware store and farm in Montana. John Kohls and wife took a trip to Yellowstone Park and through the West in 1914, and enjoyed the trip immensely. All of the Kohls family are members of the Catholic church and liberal contributors to its support. Few people are better known in this vicinity than John Kohls, Jr., and few are more deserving of the respect and confidence bestowed upon them by their neighbors and fellow citizens than he.

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### BENJAMIN F. SCHAFER.

The biographies of representative men of a county, either of a past or present generation, brings alike many hidden treasures of mind, character and courage, well calculated to arouse the pride of their descendants and of the community. It is a source of regret that people are not more familiar with the personal history of such men in the ranks of whom may be found farmers, mechanics, teachers, lawyers, physicians, bankers and members of other professions. Putnam county, Ohio, has been the scene of labor of many men who have not only led lives which should serve as a lesson and inspiration to those who follow them on the stage of life's activities, but who have also been of commendable service in other important avenues. Benjamin F. Schafer, the subject of this sketch, is a well-known and successful young farmer and stock buyer of Putnam county, Ohio.

Benjamin F. Schafer was born on August 11, 1882, in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of William and Mary (Morris) Schafer.

William Schafer was born in Koenig, Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, on February 4, 1839, and came to America with his parents in 1854. They settled in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, where he was married to Mary Morris, the daughter of Judge Morris, August 6, 1863. With his young wife, he moved to Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, in March, 1864, and settled on the farm on which he and his wife resided until their deaths. At the time he moved to Palmer township, it was almost an unbroken forest and abounded with all kinds of game and wild animals. He cleared the timber from most of the farm with his own hands. He was quite active in politics, being a Democrat. He held several offices of trust and, in April,

1867, was elected justice of the peace of Palmer township, which office he held for twelve consecutive terms, or until his death. He was twice elected township treasurer and once township trustee. He was elected county commissioner, in 1875, and held this office for six years. William Schafer was appointed postmaster at North Creek, Ohio, in March, 1879, and held this office until President McKinley was elected.

To William and Mary (Morris) Schafer were born twelve children, Henry P., on September 11, 1864; John S., February 18, 1866; Margaret Catherine, September 19, 1867; William W., December 17, 1869; George Lewis, December 12, 1871; Charles C., September 26, 1874; Sarah E., August 22, 1876; Mary Emaline, June 17, 1878; Ida Lavina, August 19, 1880; Benjamin F., August 11, 1882; Surilda Laura May, July 13, 1884, died on September 1, 1903, and Joseph J., May 19, 1887. Five of the sons and one daughter reside in Putnam county and the others reside in different states. William Schafer died on January 1, 1903, and his wife died on October 10, 1902.

Benjamin F. Schafer grew up on the homestead farm and was educated in district No. 3, of Palmer township. He has never left the original homestead farm owned by his father.

Benjamin F. Schafer was married on September 8, 1903, to Mary Ida Brecht, the daughter of Amos and Mary (Fenstermaker) Brecht.

Amos Brecht was born on November 20, 1849, in Seneca county, Ohio, and came to Putnam county with his parents who settled in Palmer township on a farm. His parents were Adam and Elizabeth Brecht, the latter of whom was a native of Seneca county, Ohio, and the former of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany. He came to America with his parents when he was four years of age and they settled in Seneca county, Ohio, where they were farmers. Here, Amos Brecht grew up and was educated and he, with his parents, came to Putnam county in 1862 and settled on eighty acres of land in Liberty township, where Amos farmed until his marriage, in August, 1871, to Mary Fenstermaker, who was the daughter of Gideon and Anna Elizabeth (Roat) Fenstermaker. Gideon Fenstermaker was born in Pennsylvania on August 22, 1825. He moved with his parents to Fairfield county, Ohio, when he was quite young and remained on the homestead farm until his marriage, August 17, 1851. He was reared a farmer and educated in Fairfield county. His parents both died in this county. After his marriage, Gideon Fenstermaker moved to Putnam county, Ohio, settling on one hundred and sixty acres of government land in Palmer township. This he cleared and improved. When he received the land, it was heavily timbered,

and the bark of the wolves could be plainly heard at night. By rigid economy and persistent effort, he made out of this a good farm. He sold part of the farm, later, but kept forty acres, which he farmed until his death, June 22, 1894, at the age of sixty-eight years and ten months. He was a stanch Democrat and served as justice of the peace and township trustee for many years. He also held other minor offices. He was a member of the Disciples church. His wife, Elizabeth Roat, was born in Washington county, Maryland, March 10, 1834, and died March 5, 1907, at the age of seventy-two years, eleven months and twenty-six days. She came with her parents to Fairfield county, Ohio, at the age of four years. Here she grew to womanhood and was educated. She was a good woman and an active member of the Disciples church. Gideon and Anna Elizabeth Fenstermaker had ten children, Mrs. Mary Gustwiler, of Palmer township, Putnam county, who who first married Mr. Brecht; Edward; of Henry county; Martin, of Bellmore, Ohio; Mrs. Seluta Stall, of Hancock county, Ohio; Charles, of Lima; Caroline, who died at the age of ten years; John, of Dekalb county, Ohio; Mrs. Dallas Robinson, of Union county, Ohio; Mrs. Cora Harmon, of Blanchard township; and Ora, of Hillsdale, Michigan.

Amos Brecht, the father of Mrs. Schafer, remained on his father's farm in Liberty township, Putnam county, for two years after his marriage and then purchased twenty acres in Palmer township, which he subsequently increased to one hundred and twenty acres by adding small tracts. He improved the farm and built a fine residence. He was an excellent farmer and an industrious worker, paying close attention to the details of farm management. He was a well-to-do man, well known and well liked. He was a stanch Democrat, although he never cared for office. He did, however, hold minor township offices, such as township supervisor and school director. He was an active and devout member of St. John's Lutheran church. He was a companionable man, a good father and a good provider. He had a family of nine children, Mrs. Laura E. Miller, of Dekalb county, Indiana; Gideon, of Palmer township, Putnam county; Israel, of Liberty township; Amos, deceased; Mrs. Selvita Eveline Farney, of Blanchard township; Mary Ida, the wife of Mr. Schafer; Daniel LeRoy, of Palmer township; Mrs. Anna Levina Dobmeyer, of Palmer township, and John Dietrich, who is at home.

After the death of Amos Brecht, his wife was married on July 25, 1895, to Louis Gustwiler, a native of Detroit, Michigan. They were married on the homestead farm of Amos Brecht.

Benjamin F. and Mary Ida (Brecht) Schafer have had four children, Floyd Ray, born on July 24, 1904; Ernest Franklin, July 14, 1906; Nolan

Henry, in November, 1908, and Edith Frada, June 9, 1911. All of these children are at home. The three sons attend the same district No. 3 school, which their father attended during his youth.

Benjamin F. Schafer has erected practically all of the buildings on his farm of one hundred and seventy-three acres. He follows general farming and raises considerable stock, especially cattle. He is an extensive stock-buyer and feeds cattle. At the present time he has ten head of horses. He owns a registered Shorthorn bull. He is in a company of four persons who own two Belgian stallions, which he keeps on his farm. He sells an average of fifty head of cattle each year. Some time ago Mr. Schafer rebuilt one of the largest barns in Putnam county. It is known as one of the finest in the county.

Benjamin F. Schafer is not a member of any lodge. He is a Democrat in politics and is very active in the councils of his party. He has never cared much for office, although he has served as school director. He is especially a lover of horses and all live stock, of which he is an expert judge. Mr. Schafer is not a member of any church, but was reared in the Old School Baptist faith. Mrs. Schafer is a member of the Reformed Lutheran church, at Miller City, Ohio. Benjamin Schafer is a congenial man, quiet and unassuming, well liked and well acquainted throughout Putnam county. He comes of excellent pioneer stock and is himself a worthy scion of a noble family.

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#### CHARLES O. PIERMAN.

Among the progressive farmers, of Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, is Charles O. Pierman, a man who owns a splendid farm, has a delightful home and is prudent and wise in the administration of his affairs.

Charles O. Pierman was born on February 25, 1871, in the southeastern part of Ottawa township. He is the son of Samuel and Margaret F. (Clark) Pierman.

Samuel Pierman died on January 7, 1904, at the age of seventy-six and his wife died on March 12, 1883. During his life, Samuel Pierman was one of the most highly esteemed citizens of Putnam county. He was born in Virginia about ten miles from the natural bridge, June 24, 1827, and when young moved with his parents to Ohio in 1834. He was a son of James and Polly (Agner) Pierman. They settled about three miles east of Ottawa, just west of the mouth of Riley creek. About ten years later they moved into

the northeastern part of Pleasant township and lived there the rest of their lives. Samuel Pierman grew up amid the hardships of pioneer life. His father was a soldier in the War of 1812 and was a fearless man. Samuel remembered when, in his boyhood, the Indians got drunk and noisy and were led out of his father's cabin by the hair. Samuel was among the "forty-niners," going by rail to St. Joseph, Missouri, and from there walked across the continent to California. Three years later he came back home and bought one hundred and sixty acres in the southwest quarter of section 26, of Ottawa township. Later, he sold eighty acres and bought more land near the Blanchard river where it was cleared and the water did not stand so much as on the other land. He became owner of three hundred and thirty-six acres.

Samuel Pierman was married on June 26, 1860, to Mrs. Margaret A. (Clark) Merritt. She was born in Ottawa township, just east of the fair grounds on October 22, 1837, the daughter of James and Elizabeth (Battlefield) Clark, who came to Putnam county, in 1833. Samuel and Margaret (Merritt) Pierman were the parents of nine children, all of whom survived him. When a good man, industrious and honest, dies, the community mourns. They miss his companionship and presence and pay worthy tribute to his memory. Samuel Pierman was a man highly respected and esteemed by a large circle of intimate friends.

Charles O. Pierman grew up on his father's farm. He was married on October 25, 1894, to Harriett Gertrude McDowell. She was born in Blanchard township and is the daughter of William and Eliza (Ridge) McDowell. William McDowell was an old and respected citizen of Putnam county, born in Hancock county, Ohio, and died in Ottawa, March 26, 1898, at the age of forty-nine. When very young, he came with his parents, John and Nancy (Mallahan) McDowell, to Putnam county. They located in Riley township, and here he lived until 1896. He married Eliza Ridge in 1871. She was born, in Riley township, the daughter of William and Harriett (Catlett) Ridge, whose family came from Virginia. Mrs. Ridge is still living in Ottawa, at the age of eighty-eight. William McDowell farmed in Riley township, until 1896, and then moved to Ottawa, where he operated the City hotel until his death. He was well known throughout the eastern part of the county and had a very large circle of friends and acquaintances.

Ever since his marriage, Mr. Pierman and his wife have lived in the community where he was born. He has a farm of one hundred and ten acres, splendid house and barn and is in every way a progressive citizen. Charles O. and Harriett G. (McDowell) Pierman have been the parents of seven

children, Mildred A., born on June 19, 1898; Charles La Monte, June 28, 1901; Raymond, April 26, 1904; Lloyd V., November 29, 1906; Zoe Edna, April 7, 1909; Dorothy Ruth, November 8, 1911; and Helen Grace, December 3, 1913.

Identified with the Democratic party, Mr. Pierman is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In every respect he must be classed as a representative citizen of Ottawa township, where he has lived for so many years.

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### JAMES M. AGNER.

In these latter days it is interesting to record the lives of men who settled a new country while the Indians were still roaming about. The progress of agriculture since those days has been most remarkable. The present-day farmer is no longer beset with the problems which faced the hardy pioneers of other days, but is now enabled because of improved methods to divide his time between his own vocation and public affairs, generally. Improved devices have placed the farmer in the front of our progressive citizens. One of the most progressive citizens of Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, and especially one of the most progressive farmers of this township, is James M. Agner.

James M. Agner was born on January 27, 1855, about two miles southeast of Ottawa along the Blanchard river. He was the son of George and Elizabeth (Sackett) Agner. George Agner was the son of George and Rachel (Mockerman) Agner and was born in Fairfield county, in 1818, and came with his parents to Putnam county in 1843. He married Elizabeth Sackett on October 21, 1847. Her parents were William and Rachel (Lile) Sackett, who came from Fairfield county and settled in Ottawa township in 1833. George Agner died September 2, 1878. His father entered the land on which was the site of the old Indian town of Upper Tawa and their burying ground was on his farm. Their graves being shallow, he gathered the bones and buried them, which act highly incensed the remaining Indians and they threatened his life. He left with his family for a time and when the Indians had removed he returned to his farm.

George Agner, Jr., was a child when his father came to Ottawa township and the boy found playmates with the Indian children in this vicinity. George Agner, Sr., and his wife, were Pennsylvania-Dutch and came from



Maryland to Ohio. James M. Agner's mother died on February 16, 1894. James M. Agner grew up on the farm on which he was born.

James M. Agner was married in 1879, to Sarah E. Crow. She was born five miles west of Ottawa and was a daughter of Stephen and Elizabeth (Fretz) Crow. Stephen Crow was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, on March 18, 1826, and came to Putnam county, in 1835, with his parents, James and Elizabeth (Moreland) Crow. He was married, in this county, October 28, 1847, to Elizabeth Fretz, who was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, July 16, 1828, the daughter of John and Veronica (Shelby) Fretz, who settled in Putnam county in 1834.

Sarah E. Crow was eighteen years old when her parents moved to Riley township, Putnam county, and there she lived until her marriage to Mr. Agner. After this he continued farming on the land entered by his grandfather. He owns one hundred and twenty acres at home, and eighty acres in Palmer township. Mr. Agner follows general farming and raises a good breed of live stock, and now owns a farm of one hundred and twenty acres.

To James M. and Sarah E. (Crow) Agner five sons and two daughters have been born, Pratt E., Nora, Neva May, Jason, Raymond, Clyde and Clair. Pratt E. married May Allen and engaged in farming near the old home. They have two daughters, Mildred and Delilah Louise, and a son Richard, who died at the age of nineteen months; Nora is the wife of Homer Pierman and lives near the old home. They have five children, Gladys May, James Glenn, Marcene Lenore, William Corwin and Idonna-Dorine; Neva May is still at home; Jason married Lucy Post and lives at Ottawa; Raymond married Edna Fensler, lives in Toledo and has one daughter, Ruby; Clyde and Clair are twins; Clyde married Marie Conine and lives northeast of Gilboa in Blanchard township; Clair is still at home.

Mrs. James M. Agner died on Christmas day, 1898. She was a faithful and devoted wife and mother, rearing her children to be Christian men and women. She united with the Disciples church at the age of fourteen and remained faithful to this church all of her life. The last Great Call found her fully prepared for the everlasting life where no loving ties are severed.

James M. Agner is identified with the Democratic party. He has served on the school board or as school director for about fifteen years. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Agner is a public-spirited citizen, well known for his sterling integrity, his uprightness of character and is popular in the community where he lives.

## CELESTIAN NOIROT, JR.

Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, has many excellent farmers and many excellent citizens, among whom is Celestian Noirot, Jr., who owns a splendid farm in section 13, in this township. Mr. Noirot is a native of the township where he now lives. Here he has spent all of his life. He is widely acquainted in this section of Putnam county and is recognized as a citizen of high standing and intelligence in the community where he lives. Mr. Noirot has had much to do with the agricultural progress and prosperity of Putnam county, and, from any standpoint, is entitled to representation in a volume of this character.

Celestian Noirot, Jr., was born on December 23, 1869, in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Celestian, Sr., and Victoria Noirot.

Celestian Noirot, Sr., was born in the village of Boncourt, France, on August 10, 1835. He came to America with his parents, Francis and Francois (Raslot) Noirot, who were also natives of the village of Boncourt, France, and who settled in Hancock county on a farm. They lived here for a time and later moved to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1862, settling on forty acres in Palmer township, where the land was heavily timbered and in a swampy condition. Celestian Noirot, Sr., was a farmer. He accompanied his parents to Putnam county and farmed in a general way all of his life. He also learned the plasterer's trade in Hancock county and followed this, together with farming. He followed this trade in Putnam county and many buildings were plastered by him. The forty acres in Palmer township were, in time, increased to over two hundred. Celestian Noirot, Sr., followed his trade in Findlay, Ohio, walking back and forth to his farm in Palmer township. He was married in Findlay, Ohio, and after his marriage returned to Putnam county. He and his wife have been the parents of nine children: Joseph, deceased; Celestian, deceased; Mrs. Helen Kerns, of Miller City; Victoria, deceased; Celestian, Jr., the subject of this sketch; George, who lives in Canada; Mrs. Emma Royal, of Dekalb county, Indiana, and Theodore, of Miller City. Celestian Noirot, Sr., served as supervisor and school director, and, with these two exceptions, has held no offices. He is a Democrat and is a member of the St. Nicholas church at Miller City. He lives with his son, Celestian, Jr., on the farm, but is retired. He is a man of good reputation and has done much for his children. He has been a hard worker and has seen many joys and sorrows. He is now past eighty years of age. The



MR. AND MRS. CELESTIAN NOHOT.



mother of Celestian Noirot, Jr., was born in Alsace, France, and came to America with her mother. Her mother became seasick on the vessel during the rough voyage and died five days after landing in this country. Mrs. Noirot then came to Findlay, Ohio, with her brother George and others. She remained there for some time, and after her marriage came to Putnam county with her husband. She was born on August 15, 1841, and died on August 17, 1907, at the age of seventy-four years and two days. She was a devout member of the St. Nicholas church at Miller City.

Celestian Noirot, Jr., was reared a farmer and grew up on his father's farm in Palmer township. He was educated in the district schools of the township. Mr. Noirot was married on January 29, 1896, to Elizabeth Jones, the daughter of Joseph and Malinda (Lanning) Jones. Mrs. Noirot's father was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, and grew up on the farm there with his parents. He was educated and married in that county. After his marriage he went from Guernsey county to Illinois, where he remained for eight years on a farm. He then returned to Guernsey county and built a saw-mill, which business he followed for about two years. He then came to Putnam county and settled where Continental, Ohio, now stands. This land was heavily timbered and swampy at the time. Here he built a saw-mill, and, having brought the mill material with him from Guernsey county, began operating it. Mrs. Noirot was then ten years of age. Mr. Jones followed the saw-mill business here for some time and then in different parts of the state, wherever the timber was thick. He moved to Knockatee, Florida, in 1911, where he is engaged in the saw-filing business. He is an expert at this trade. He also owns two orange groves in Florida. He married Malinda Lanning in Guernsey county. She is still living. She was born in Guernsey county, September 10, 1856. She grew up in this county and was educated there.

To Joseph and Malinda Jones the following children were born: John, who lives in Palmer township; Elizabeth, subject's wife; Mrs. Emma Horning, of New Bavaria; Charles, who lives in Alabama; Jesse, of Salesville, Mississippi; Howard, of Holmesville, Ohio; Edna, of Coshocton, Ohio; Mrs. Blanche McKelrey, of Oriville, Ohio; Ida and Clyde, twins, the former of Palmer township and the latter of Knockatee, Florida; Hazel and Walter, both of Knockatee, Florida.

Celestian Noirot, Jr., grew up on the homestead farm in Palmer township and was educated in the district schools. He remained at home until twenty-four years of age. His father gave him eighty acres of land in sec-

tion 13 of Palmer township before his marriage. He cleared about twenty acres of this farm before his marriage, and after his marriage moved to this farm, built the buildings, cleared, ditched and fenced the land.

To Celestian and Elizabeth (Jones) Noirot, Jr., have been born nine children: Lenora, on February 5, 1897; Augustus C., November 15, 1898, died on October 28, 1903; Oscar, September 10, 1899, died on September 4, 1900; Ruth, October 2, 1901; Harmon, February 20, 1904; Jesse, August 16, 1906; Pearl, January 6, 1909; Loretta, March 16, 1911, and Marie, May 23, 1913.

Celestian Noirot, Jr., engages in general farming. He is not a member of any lodge nor has he held any offices. He is identified with the Democratic party. He and his family are members of the St. Nicholas Catholic church at Miller City. Mr. Noirot is a man of congenial temperament. He is a good farmer and industrious in his habits. He is a good provider and is interested in his home and family. He is well informed in all of the relations of life and keeps everything on his farm in good condition.

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### JOHN BALL.

John Ball, the subject of this sketch, has been a prominent factor in the development of Putnam county and especially of Palmer township, where he has lived so long. He is well known to all the people of Palmer township as an enterprising, industrious and successful farmer.

John Ball was born on January 20, 1854, in Stark county, Ohio, near Canton. He is the son of Ferdinand and Emeline (Gross) Ball. Ferdinand Ball was born on August 25, 1825, in Germany, and was the son of Barney and Mary M. Ball. Ferdinand came with his parents to America at the age of five years. They settled in Stark county, Ohio. Barney and Mary M. Ball were farmers and were early pioneers of that county. They had thirteen children: Barney, Jr.; George; Mathias; John; Ferdinand; Caroline; Eva, who lives in Henry county, Ohio; Mary, who lives in Defiance county; Elizabeth, who lives in Washington, D. C. The first six children named are deceased, and Magdalene is also deceased and three others who are not now a matter of record.

Ferdinand Ball, the father of John Ball, was educated in Carroll and Seneca counties. In Carroll county he grew to manhood and married. He

learned the blacksmith trade and was an expert at this trade. His parents, Barney and Mary M. Ball, came from Stark county to Seneca county, where they farmed for a time and then moved to Carroll county. Later they came to Putnam county, Ohio, together with John Ball's father, Ferdinand, after his marriage. They settled on a farm of forty acres in section 7, of Palmer township. Barney Ball and wife died on this farm and Ferdinand, their son, farmed this forty acres. He also had a blacksmith shop on the farm and followed this trade along with farming. He, subsequently, increased this forty acres by hard work and rigid economy to nearly two hundred acres, all of which lay in Palmer township. He also had a farm of forty acres in Monroe township, Putnam county. He followed farming all of his life and retired from blacksmithing some time before his death, January 16, 1910. He was a man of strong physical proportions, a kind, careful, prudent citizen and a good provider. He was not a member of any lodge and a man who cared nothing for political offices. He devoted all of his time to farming and to his family. He always voted the Democratic ticket. He was a stanch member of the Sacred Heart Catholic church, at New Bavaria, Ohio, and gave three acres of ground for the building of St. Joseph's church at North creek, which he attended during his latter years. He also gave liberally to the support of the church and was a regular attendant. Both of his parents died on the home farm where John Ball grew to manhood.

Emeline Gross was born near Luxemburg, Germany, and came to America with her parents when she was quite young. They settled in Stark county, Ohio. Her parents were farmers in Germany and she grew to womanhood on a farm in Stark county. She was educated there. She was married to Ferdinand Ball, May 13, 1845. She was born on June 10, 1831, and died on December 26, 1895. She was a good mother, kind and patient, and worked with zeal and effort to build up the home. She did her share toward improving the family fortune and honor. She was an active member of the Sacred Heart Catholic church at New Bavaria and later of St. Joseph's church at North Creek. Ferdinand and Emeline Ball were the parents of the following children: Henry, who lives on the homestead farm; John, the subject of this sketch; George, a merchant at North Creek, Ohio; William, of Palmer township; Mrs. Mary Engleman, of North Creek; Catherine, deceased; and Susanna, who lives on the homestead farm.

Ferdinand Ball was a soldier in the Civil War, having enlisted at Defiance, Ohio, in the Sixty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in 1864. He served until the close of the war and was a gallant soldier.

John Ball was educated in the old district No. 3 school in Palmer township and grew up on the homestead farm. He was reared a farmer and still continues to reside on the farm where he was born. His sister, Susanna, who is unmarried, lives with him and his brother, Henry, also lives with him. The buildings on the farm were erected by Ferdinand Ball. The house was built in 1880 and the barn in 1882.

John Ball was never married. He is not a member of any lodge and has held no offices except that of supervisor. He is a Democrat and is a member of the St. Joseph's Catholic church at North Creek. Mr. Ball follows general farming. He owns a thoroughbred Shorthorn cow and an imported Belgian mare.

Susanna Ball, his sister, was born on April 18, 1864, in Palmer township on the homestead farm. She lives with her brother, John, and was educated in the No. 3 school of Palmer township. She is a good, capable, companionable woman and a keen manager. John Ball is a congenial man. He is a good farmer and is prosperous and progressive.

Henry Ball, the brother of John Ball, and the son of Ferdinand and Emeline (Gross) Ball, was born on March 23, 1852, in Stark county, Ohio. He came to Putnam county, this state, with his parents at the age of six years, and was reared a farmer, grew up and was educated at the district No. 3 school in Palmer township.

Henry Ball was married on May 26, 1903, to Mrs. Mary (Welch) Burkhart, who was born in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, and the daughter of James Welch and wife, natives of Ireland.

After the marriage of Henry Ball, he moved to sixty acres of land owned by his wife, in Liberty township, and farmed here for two years. His wife died on April 24, 1905, when the farm was sold. After this, Henry Ball came back to the homestead farm in Palmer township and here he has resided since that time with his brother, John, and sister, Susanna.

John Ball learned the carpenter trade when a young man and followed this trade for many years. He has erected many buildings in Palmer township. He helped to build the parish buildings at Miller City, Ohio. Mr. Ball also farms in a general way and has eighty acres in section 1, of Monroe township, and here he raises sugar beets. He also has forty acres in section 7, of Palmer township, which his brother, John, farms.

Henry Ball has no children. He is not a member of any lodges. He was township assessor for one year, in 1882, and is a Democrat in politics. He is a member of the St. Joseph's Catholic church at North Creek. Henry Ball is well liked in the community where he lives.



## GEORGE KRATZER.

There is no better known or more highly respected citizen of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, than George Kratzer, who was born on October 17, 1845, at Lancaster, Fairfield county, Ohio, the son of Charles and Margaret (Schumaker) Kratzer. Charles Kratzer was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, and Margaret Schumaker was born in the same locality. They were married in America and lived in Fairfield county until George was past ten years of age. They next spent three years in Hancock county, Ohio, and, in February, 1859, moved to the Medary farm at Medary, Liberty township, Putnam county.

On this place, Charles Kratzer died, in 1862, leaving a wife and nine children, Catherine Barbara, Charles W., Sarah, George, Samuel, Henry, Jacob F., John M. and Louise. Of these children four are dead, who were, Barbara, Louise, Henry and Charles. After the father's death, the mother bought forty acres of land in the northeast quarter of section 16 of Liberty township, where she lived from 1863 until her death, in 1895.

George Kratzer was reared on his mother's farm, after his father's death, and operated the home farm as long as his mother lived. He was married in 1881 to Mary Margaret Mack. She was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, and came to Putnam county in infancy with her parents, Christian and Mary (Stiger) Mack.

Christian Mack was born in Ohio and reared in Fairfield county. He was both a farmer and a wagonmaker. His wife was Mary Stiger, who was a native of Switzerland, and who came to America at the age of eight, with her parents. They settled near Basil, in Fairfield county, Ohio, in the early days, and purchased a farm south of that place. Christian Mack and family moved to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1858 and located in section 23, just west of West Leipsic, where he bought a farm and there lived until his death. He was township trustee several terms, also served as assessor of his township, township treasurer, and a member of the school board for many years. He was an active member of the Lutheran church and helped build the church of that denomination in Liberty township, as well as the one in Leipsic. He died on February 15, 1894, while his widow survived him until May, 1897. They were the parents of eight children who grew to maturity, Edward, Henry, George, Frederick, Franklin, Mrs. Margaret Kratzer, Mrs. Catherine Kratzer and Mrs. Sarah Hammon.

To George and Mary Margaret (Mack) Kratzer four children have been born, Leroy, Cora, Henry and Bertha M., deceased. Leroy, born in

1884, married Mame Hall and is living at Wheeling, West Virginia; Cora E. married Charles Rosenberger and lives in Blanchard township; Henry Glen, in 1893, is also at home.

George Kratzer is the owner of one hundred acres of splendid farming land, on which he carries on a diversified system of general farming and stock raising with pronounced success. He and his family are members of St. John's Lutheran church, and Mr. Kratzer belongs to the Maccabees lodge. He is an adherent of the Democratic party, is highly respected in the community where he lives, takes an active interest in public questions, and is well informed on all matters which pertain to the public welfare. For many years he has been a leader in Liberty township.

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#### GEORGE LEINSETTER.

The Leinsetter family are of German ancestry and the first members are located in Putnam county, Ohio, about 1838, in which year the father of George Leinsetter entered a tract of government land in Liberty township. Mr. Leinsetter started out in the world in a very humble manner, working in his youth for fifty and seventy-five cents a day, which was considered big wages at that time. Many a day he worked from sun-up until sun-down, and in his early manhood cradled wheat day after day. He well remembers when his mother spun, wove and made his tow-linen clothes, and he was sixteen years old before he had his first factory-made suit. He has pulled, dried, broken and-hackled flax and sat by his mother while she spun and wove the cloth for the family wardrobe. He still owns an old coverlet which his mother wove with her own hands, that today is as bright as it was when it was dyed by her hands.

George Leinsetter, the son of John A. and Elizabeth (Krebs) Leinsetter, was born near the center of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1851. His father was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, and at the age of nine came to America with his parents. The family first located in Baltimore, later went to Pennsylvania, and, in 1838, made their permanent home in Putnam county, Ohio, in Liberty tountry.

John A. Leinsetter grew to manhood in Liberty township and lived for a time with his brother-in-law, George Hagely, and later bought a farm which was covered with heavy timber. He cleared the land and lived in the same neighborhood the remainder of his life. His wife, Elizabeth Krebs, was the

daughter of John and Anna Krebs, who came from near Lewiston, Pennsylvania, to Lorain county, Ohio, where she lived during her girlhood days. Her father was one of the first settlers in Liberty township in Putnam county, locating here about 1835, on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, where the Ottawa and Napoleon road crosses the Nickel Plate railroad. At that time the Indians were still here, and it was not until two years afterward that they moved across the Mississippi. Bears, deer and all kinds of small game were still abundant in the woods. The Indians made maple sugar at a sugar grove not far from where the family located. John A. Leinsetter had one hundred and twenty acres and farmed all of his life. He was a township trustee for two terms and a man who was highly regarded in the community where he lived. Seven children were born to John A. Leinsetter and wife, five of whom are living: George, John H., Jacob, Mrs. Anna H. Haughn and David. The deceased children are Catherine, who died at the age of two; Charles, who died on December 6, 1910.

Charles C. Leinsetter, who was born on the home farm in 1864, grew to manhood there, and after his marriage rented the home place from his parents while they lived and from the heirs after the farm was divided. He married Mary Easton in 1903, who was a native of Liberty township, the daughter of James and Esther (Terflinger) Easton. Her father was reared in Liberty township, and was a son of George Easton, an early settler of the county. Charles C. Leinsetter died on December 6, 1910, and his widow rented out the farm for three years and lived with her sister and brother-in-law. In February, 1914, she was married to John H. Leinsetter, and since that time she has made her home on the old Leinsetter homestead. John H. Leinsetter was born, October 13, 1858, on the old home farm, worked at home until of age, and spent about a year in Michigan. He then went west and spent five years and was in Oklahoma at the time it was opened for settlement. He made a little money by getting in early on the land opening, and came back to Putnam county and worked at the carpenter trade and made his home with his parents until they died, and afterward with his brother, Charles C. He owned land in Kansas, and now has a farm of two hundred and eighty acres in Howell county, Missouri.

George Leinsetter worked at home at all kinds of farm work, logging, ditching, and all kinds of hard manual labor, working for fifty and seventy-five cents a day, considering it a good wage. He also spent about two years in western Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa. After his marriage, he started in with only about forty acres, half of which was cleared. Later, he put the remainder in cultivation and has made a good little farm out of it. About

eighteen years ago, he bought forty acres more, across the road south from his original farm, and later secured thirty acres from his father. Soon after this he purchased the shares of the other heirs of the estate. He and his wife have two children, and his son has been a great help to him on the farm.

George Leinsetter was married, in 1878, to Margaret Kuntz, who was born and reared in Switzerland, and came to this country with a relative when a girl soon after the Civil War. The two children of Mr. Leinsetter and wife are: Ida M. and Harvey A. Ida M. married Henry E. Mullett, and lives about three miles northwest of the old home. She has three children, Alvin, Bertha and Clarence; Harvey A. is helping his father with the work on the home farm. Mr. Leinstetter and his family are loyal members of the Lutheran church.

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#### PHILIP SCHEY, JR.

The life of the farmer of today is the most independent existence that can be enjoyed. With all the modern inventions to facilitate farming, it is rapidly losing those objections which have always appeared so ominous to the average farmer lad. Again, the public school has taken cognizance of this subject, and today, in the schools of Ohio, farming is being taught and in many cases, given as much attention as arithmetic. Our colleges are granting degrees in agriculture, and farmers' short courses are being given everywhere. No better farming land can be found in the state than in Putnam county, and among the many good agriculturists of the county there is none who has made more of a success of this time-honored occupation than Philip Schey, Jr.

Philip Schey, Jr., was born, November 27, 1858, on Elm Creek, seven miles south of Columbus, Ohio. He is a son of Philip Schey, Sr., and Catherine (Bouch) Schey, the life history of whom may be found elsewhere in this volume.

Philip Schey, Jr., was ten years of age when the family moved to near Medary, Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio. Here the lad bore his full share in the toil and hardships of the early settlers of the Black swamp. He lived at home until his marriage, assisting his father with the farm work, and thus early learning all the principles of good farming.

Philip Schey, Jr., was married in 1884 to Pauline Yenner, a sister of John Yenner, whose biography tells of Mrs. Schey's parentage. Mrs. Schey died in 1885, leaving one daughter, Cora Louise, the wife of John E. Hat-

horn, who is school supervisor in the northwest part of Putnam county, and who lives at Continental. They have two daughters, Pauline and Mabel. Mr. Schey was married a second time to Magdalene Wirth, in 1886, who was born in Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, and who is a daughter of Samuel and Magdalena (Bauer) Wirth. Samuel Wirth came from Breis-Darmstadt, Germany, about 1850, and first located at Columbus, Ohio, where he worked for a time in the quarries, getting out stone for the state house. He came to Liberty township, in this county, about 1852, and located in the southwest part of Liberty township, where he purchased a farm, and here he lived until about twelve years ago, when he moved to Holgate. Later he moved north of Holgate, where his wife died in 1906, after which Mr. Wirth spent the remaining years of his life with his daughter, Mrs. Schey, and died at her home, in October, 1912.

When a youth, Mr. Schey purchased eighty acres of land, but later sold half of this tract and began farming on the remainder, where he is now living. This land was partly cleared, but not drained. From the time of his marriage, Mr. Schey lived on this farm, and from an humble beginning he has made his own way in the world, until he is now the owner of two hundred and sixty acres of fine farming land which is well improved with a neat and substantial brick house, equipped with a private lighting plant, with commodious barns and other outbuildings, making it one of the best farms in the county.

Seven children have been born to Philip Schey, Jr., by his second marriage: George, who married Olive Hyde, lives just north of his father, and has one daughter, Catherine; Walter, who married Jessie Pickens, lives on a farm adjoining his father's, and they have two sons, Woodrow and Donald; Will, who married Mabel Kratzer, lives at home; Charles, of New Orleans; while Homer, Samuel and Amelia are living at home.

Philip Schey, Jr., has always taken an interest in public affairs in his community, and has held nearly all of the official positions in his township. At present he is township treasurer. He is a busy man always and faithful in his endeavor to improve, not only his own condition, but that of the community as well. Mr. Schey and family are members of the Lutheran church, in which he especially is an active worker. He teaches a Bible class in both the Lutheran and Evangelical churches, the former in the morning and the latter in the afternoon of Sunday. In all respects he must be considered a representative citizen of Putnam county and one, therefore, entitled to rank among the progressive men of his day and generation, whose life histories

are told in this volume. Mr. Schey is not only a man of influence in his community, but he is a man who has always wielded this influence for the public good.

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### PETER SCHEY.

Though Nature affords excellent opportunity for carrying on certain lines of labor in every locality, there is demanded of every man great industry and diligence, if he succeeds. Competition makes him put forth his best efforts and it requires great care to conduct any business enterprise along profitable lines. This is especially true of farming, and from the time of the earliest spring planting, until the crops are harvested, the farmer's life is a busy one. Even through the winter months, he prepares for the labors of the coming year and thus lays the foundation of his success for the ensuing season. Yet the farmer leads the most independent life and always has the satisfaction of getting a day off whenever he desires. Putnam county farmers are not excelled anywhere in the state, and among these excellent farmers is Peter Schey.

Peter Schey was born on July 14, 1862, at Elm Creek, Franklin county, Ohio, the son of Philip and Catherine (Bouch) Schey, the life history of whom is given on another page of this volume.

Peter Schey was a boy of seven years when the family moved to Liberty township, Putnam county. He lived on the home farm until he had attained his majority. He began farming for himself at this time and rented land for three years. Subsequently, he purchased forty acres in Henry county and lived there four years. He then moved back to Liberty township and sold out his farm holdings in Henry county and purchased the eighty acres where he now lives. At the time Mr. Schey purchased this land, there were few improvements on it. He erected a splendid house and commodious and comfortable barns. Mr. Schey has made out of this land a good farm. He purchased eighty acres more about 1906, and in 1912 he added forty acres, making two hundred acres, all in one body and all good land; in fact, no more fertile or more productive land can be found anywhere.

When a young man, Mr. Schey did some ditch contracting and hauling timber; in fact, he has never hesitated to do any honorable work which might bring him success. His first eighty-acre farm was purchased for forty-two dollars an acre in February, 1895; in 1907 he paid eighty-five dollars an acre, and in 1912 he paid one hundred and sixty dollars an acre, in all cases,

getting practically no improvements except the bare land. Practically all of Mr. Schey's farm was a swamp and appeared absolutely worthless at the beginning, but since he has drained and improved it, no better land is to be found anywhere.

Peter Schey was married in March, 1893, to Lenna Hensel, who was born in Baden, Germany, and who is the daughter of John and Magdalene (Weaver) Hensel. She came to America with her mother at the age of eight years, her father having died in Germany, of smallpox, and her brother died on the way to America. The mother and seven children who arrived safely in America and located in Franklin county about twelve miles northwest of Columbus. There Mrs. Schey lived until her marriage. To this union five sons and one daughter have been born, John, Fred, Edward, Frank, Emil and Florence.

Peter Schey served three years on the school board and is now the trustee of Liberty township, Putnam county. He is also a trustee of the Mutual Telephone Company of Leipsic, a successful, co-operative company, the success of which has been due to a considerable degree to Mr. Schey's able directions, who, together with his family, are members of the Lutheran church. In Liberty township, where Peter Schey lives, his name means all of those things which stand for honor and respectability in the community. Mr. Schey and his brothers and all of their families are prominent in Liberty township and well known throughout Putnam county.

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#### HENRY BECKMAN.

The rise from poverty to affluence has developed the character of many men living in Putnam county, Ohio. They have remained honest and loyal to their early interests, however, and are ever interested in the welfare of the community and in its progress. One of the most respected and progressive farmers of this county is Henry Beckman, who lives south of Ottawa in Ottawa township. Henry Beckman is a son of Bernard Beckman, Sr., and Hannah M. (Shonhoff) Beckman.

Bernard Beckman, Sr., was a poor boy, and was in debt for his passage to America when he landed here. He was born in Oldenburg, Germany, on August 24, 1828, the son of John B. H. and Elizabeth (Barlage) Beckman. He came to Putnam county, Ohio, in December, 1848, and lived for a time at Glandorf. He was married in December, 1850, to Anna M. Schonhoff, who was also a native of Oldenburg, Germany, her birth having occurred there

on November 2, 1832, the daughter of Herman H. and Mary A. (Wessel) Schonhoff. She came to America about 1849.

After Bernard Beckman, Sr., was married, he bought forty acres of land on the south side of Ottawa township, which was partly cleared. He paid six hundred dollars for this land, on which was a house, but not much else in the way of improvements. A short time before that, he bought two other forty-acre tracts, one for two hundred dollars and the other for four hundred dollars. He spent his life on his farm south of Ottawa. There were six children who grew to maturity, John, Bernard H., Henry, Mary B., Joseph and Elizabeth. The father of these children died on February 13, 1895, at the age of sixty-six, while his wife died on October 27, 1899, at the age of sixty-six. He and his family were devoted adherents of the Catholic church at Ottawa.

Henry Beckman grew to maturity on the farm where he was born. He was married on November 11, 1891, to Anna Kleform. She was born in Ottawa township, just south of Ottawa, the daughter of John and Catherine (Recker) Kleform. John Kleform was born and reared on the farm where Mrs. Beckman was born. He was a son of Gerhardt and Elizabeth (Sponhoff) Kleform, who settled in Putnam county in 1837. Catherine Recker was born in 1850, the daughter of H. H. and Mary Recker, who came to Putnam county in 1835. John Kleform and wife were married at Glandorf in 1867, and spent the remainder of their lives on the farm where Mrs. Beckman was born.

Ever since Henry Beckman was married he has farmed the home place. His father was a cripple, for probably thirty-five years, before his death, and from the time Henry Beckman was sixteen years old, he has operated the farm. After his marriage, his parents lived with him until they died. Henry Beckman has followed agricultural pursuits all his life, and for seven years served as township trustee of Ottawa township, a position which he filled with exceptional ability, winning the approval of the citizens of the entire township.

Henry and Anna (Kleform) Beckman are the parents of five children living and two who died in infancy. Those living are Loretta, Philomina, Salome, Elmer and Hubert. Loretta is the wife of William Rieman, and lives northeast of Ottawa. She has one daughter, Lucile; Philomina is the wife of John Selhorst, and lives in Pleasant township.

Henry Beckman is a large, broad-shouldered man of splendid physique, candid and outspoken in his manner and more inclined to do a favor than to promise it. Naturally, he is a highly-respected citizen of the community



where he resides. Mr. Beckman still has the spinning wheel which his mother used and also he has an old flail of pioneer pattern, which is always an object of interest to visitors. He, with his family, are members of Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic church at Ottawa. He at present farms one hundred and seventeen acres, all of which is located in Ottawa and Pleasant township. Mr. Beckman raises a great deal of poultry and now has almost three hundred chickens on the farm of all kinds. He sells quite a number and has been very successful.

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### PHILIP SCHEY, SR.

A review of the life of the honored and lamented Philip Schey, Sr., must of necessity be brief and general in its character. To enter fully into the interesting details of his career, touching the struggles of his early manhood and successes of later days, would far transcend the limits of this article. He filled a large place in the range of the enterprising and public-spirited men of his day and generation, and the luster of his good deeds, and the memories which attach to his name and character form no inconsiderable chapter in the history of the community where he did his work and achieved his success. He is entitled to the honorable position he long occupied among the brave and energetic self-made men of Putnam county, Ohio, who, by enterprise and unswerving integrity, forged to the front, surmounting all opposition and winning for the grand old Buckeye state a place second to none in the bright constellation which comprises the union of American states. That he did his work nobly and well cannot be gainsaid, and though dead, he yet speaks in the work which he founded and in the many kindly deeds and noble influence which not only his friends, but the community as well, prize as a grateful heritage.

Philip Schey, Sr., was born in Preisen-Darmstadt, Germany, on September 22, 1832. He came to America first at the age of fourteen, and after spending several years in this county, returned to his native land, but again, at the age of twenty-five, returned to the United States, locating south of Columbus, Ohio.

It was while living here that Mr. Schey was married on November 25, 1856, to Catherine Bouch, who was also a native of Germany, her birth having occurred in Wurttemberg, June 1, 1831, and who was a daughter of Jacob and Magdaline (Walter) Bouch. She came to America with her brother, Philip Bouch, while a small girl.

Philip Schey's mother was Catherine C. Emer before her marriage, and Philip was one of nine children. His parents both died while he was a lad. When he came first to America he lost all trace of his relatives, and for more than forty years was unable to locate them. When past middle life he advertised in numerous newspapers, and as a consequence of this advertising, located an old school mate of his boyhood days. Through this old school-mate he found some of his brothers.

When he went back to Germany in his youth, he served in the German army, and while there learned considerable about veterinary practice. Upon his return to America, he also learned the trade of wagon-making, and, until he came to Putnam county, he practiced as a veterinary and also worked as a wagonmaker.

He moved to Putnam county in 1868, locating near where the old town of Medary once stood, in the north part of Liberty township. Here he purchased forty acres of land, on which was a log cabin. Very little of this land was cleared and almost all of it was too wet to produce anything. At that time, the family was poor, but Philip Schey was joined in the labors on the farm by his wife and eldest son. Mr. Schey himself worked for more fortunate people who owned farms on the ridge. Ague, at that time, was a veritable plague on account of the swampiness of the soil. After the stave factory came to Putnam county and created a demand for timber, Mr. Schey sold some timber and thus acquired the means to drain his land. This gave him a start toward material success. He soon purchased another eighty acres, and his sons improved the land and made out of it a good farm.

There were eight children born to Philip, Sr., and Catherine (Bouch) Schey, six of whom are still living, Annie, the wife of J. T. Culver; Philip, Jr., who is referred to elsewhere in this volume; Mary, now deceased, was the wife of Samuel W. Gross; Peter, of Liberty township; John, of Liberty township; William A., deceased; Catherine M., the wife of William Heffner, and Caroline E., the wife of Frank Semler.

Philip Schey, Sr., died on November 17, 1879, while his widow survived him nearly twenty years, her death occurring in 1897. Both were earnest and active members of the Lutheran church, and took an active interest in its welfare.

Philip Schey, Sr., was a lover of all that was good and honest, a despiser of hypocrisy and shams of any sort. He was never able to obtain much education, but managed to acquire considerable information by home study and observation. He and his wife brought up a large family of children, whose lives prove that they were well reared and well trained in their youth. All

have their homes and are useful and honored members of the community, and all have an active part in the affairs of their respective townships, and for all of this, they are indebted to the good judgment and the loving kindness of their deceased parents, whom it is their delight to honor.

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### GEORGE W. KNELLER.

Young men who begin life with no pecuniary assistance and, who, without help, are able to get a good start while still young, surely are deserving of great credit. George W. Kneller is a young man who began life with no help from anyone and who has worked hard, lived frugally and saved. He now has a substantial competence, consisting of a well-improved farm in Liberty township.

George W. Kneller was born on May 18, 1872, in Fairfield county, Ohio, the son of Frederick and Mary (Walker) Kneller. Frederick Kneller was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, in 1840, and at the age of six years came to America with his parents, Gottfried Kneller and wife, who settled in Hocking county, Ohio, where Mary Walker was born.

Frederick Kneller has been a life-long farmer in Fairfield county. He now lives in Lancaster, Ohio.

George W. Kneller lived in Fairfield county until 1891, when he came to Liberty township, Putnam county, and worked out as a farm hand. He was married on November 24, 1897, to Estella E. Krause, the daughter of Philip M. and Alenath (Bagley) Krause. She was born in Liberty township, Putnam county. Philip M. Krause was born in Fairfield county and came to Putnam county with his parents, when a small boy. They located on the Medary farm, in the northwestern part of Liberty township, but later bought a farm upon which George W. Kneller now lives. Here, Mr. Krause grew up and married Alemath Bagley. She was born at Bluffton, Allen county, Ohio, and was the daughter of Joseph Bagley and wife. Mr. Krause farmed on the home farm in Liberty township, until 1910, when he moved to Findlay, Ohio, where he bought another farm and resumed his occupation. George W. and Estella E. (Krause) Kneller have three children, Gladys Lorene, Orville Frederick and Willetta Grace.

After George W. Kneller's marriage, he bought the old Squire Krause farm, where he lives in section 9 of Liberty township. He started in this county with no money and worked for fifteen dollars a month. His farm he

bought on credit and he now has eighty-one and one-half acres. He erected a fine brick house in 1911 and has a splendid farm.

George W. Kneller is a Republican and takes an active interest in the councils of that party. He is a member of the local school board. He and his family belong to the Lutheran church and contribute of their means to the support of this denomination.

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### SAMUEL MYERS.

To make a success of farming, it is necessary to be something more than a hard worker. A farmer might labor from dawn to twilight, every day in the year, and yet fail to accomplish much. There must be sound judgment and discretion exercised at the same time, a knowledge of soil, grain, live stock, and, in fact, general business. The man who accomplishes much as a farmer in these days should be accorded a place along with the men who succeed in other walks of life, for often it requires more ingenuity and courage to be a farmer than anything else that claims the attention of men in the world of affairs. A brief review of the life of Samuel Myers, a well-known retired farmer of Perry township, Putnam county, Ohio, will suffice to show that he has achieved success in his life work because he has worked for it and partly because what he made has worked for him.

Samuel Myers was born on February 22, 1840, in Perry township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Samuel, Sr., and Margaret (Hardin) Myers, the former of whom was born in Washington county, Maryland, on April 21, 1793, and the latter born in Licking county, Ohio, on May 8, 1816.

Samuel Myers, Sr., was the son of John and Mary (Dillon) Myers. John Myers was a native of Maryland, of German descent, and a wealthy farmer and landowner. He also owned a mill and distillery. His children were fourteen in number, six of whom are now living: John, Jacob, Mrs. Mira Shank, Mrs. Barbara Shank, Henry, Samuel, Sr., and Mrs. Anna Stauffer. Mary Dillon was a native of Pennsylvania and a member of the Mennonite church, dying at a ripe old age. John Myers was a staunch Democrat and an influential citizen in the community where he lived. Mrs. Margaret (Hardin) Myers was the daughter of Abraham and Catherine (Wishart) Hardin, the former of whom was a son of William Hardin, who served seven years in the Continental army during the Revolutionary War and who died at the age of one hundred and four years. Abraham Hardin served



SAMUEL MYERS.



in the War of 1812, from Licking county, Ohio, under General Wayne. Mrs. Margaret Myers' grandfather Wishart was born in Scotland and settled in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, where he lived to be ninety-eight years old. Samuel Myers, Sr., and Margaret Hardin were married on Christmas day, 1832. They had ten children: Adelina, who married Joseph Boxwell; Mrs. Anna A. Ayers, of Columbus Grove; Samuel, Jr., the subject of this sketch; Jacob, who was wounded June 27, 1864, at Kenesaw Mountain and died on September 27, 1864, from the effects of the wound received at that time; Abraham, who died at Nashville, Tennessee, during the Civil War; Susannah, who married G. D. McClure, of Jackson township, Putnam county; Margaret, deceased, who married Daniel Wilser, also deceased; David, who died in infancy; Huldah, deceased, who married Godfrey Guyer, of Leipsic, Ohio, and Malinda, deceased, who married Sam Price. The great-grandfather of these children, Dr. David Wishart, was a celebrated physician in the state of Pennsylvania.

Samuel Myers, Sr., was educated in the state of Maryland and came to Putnam county in 1829, where he purchased a tract of land in Greensburg township, on the Blanchard river. Here he built a house, and subsequently sent for his family, including his father, mother, three brothers and three sisters, Jacob, Joseph, John, Maria, Barbara and Fanny. Soon after their arrival two other brothers, Peter and Henry, came. Mrs. Margaret Myers was the first white woman married in Putnam county. Samuel Myers, Sr., built a dam for a saw-mill in 1834, and also a grist-mill, completing the latter in 1843. He operated the grist-mill for many years and performed a great deal of the labor himself. He took great pride in the construction of this mill, which was exceedingly well built of heavy hewed timber. It was a three-story mill with a hip roof. A patent was later given on this style of roof. The frame timbers were fourteen by thirteen inches, the first floor beams were twelve inches, the second floor ten inches and the third floor eight inches. The buckets for the mill were scrolled out by a millwright named Graves, and in later years a patent was issued to a man by the name of Ross for similar wheel buckets. The mill had undershot wheels. It was built in 1840, and was torn down in January, 1915. The timber was in an excellent state of preservation and was used in a barn in the neighborhood. The timber was cut in February, in the dark of the moon, as tests prior to this show that this timber lasts longer.

Samuel Myers, Sr., was not only an early pioneer, but a man of excellent business ability and of sound business principles. Besides farming, he could

do many other things. He was a stonemason, a carpenter, a blacksmith, a fuller in wool factories and was well acquainted with all of the intricacies of the lumber business. He died on August 27, 1860, at the age of sixty-seven years, and his wife died on May 16, 1901, at the age of eighty-five. Samuel Myers, Sr., was a man of broad views and was extremely public-spirited. He built three miles of plank road in Putnam county and contributed one thousand dollars toward its construction. In politics, he was originally a Whig and was honored at various times by election to local offices. He was one of the first county commissioners and was the first school examiner. He was trustee for many years and built the first school house in the township. Religiously, he was an influential member of the Mennonite church and a liberal contributor to the church. To Samuel Myers, Sr., the people are greatly indebted for much of its early development.

Samuel Myers, Jr., was reared on his father's farm and educated in the old log schoolhouse in Perry township, near his home. He worked on the farm until he was twenty-two years of age and then became a boatman on the canal. During the summer he performed odd jobs in connection with his work as a boatman. He followed this vocation for about three years. In December, 1862, Mr. Myers purchased the farm of eighty acres in Paulding county, Ohio, and farmed there until February 1, 1864, when he enlisted in Company G, Fifty-fourth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, as a private. This company was attached to the Second Brigade, Second Division, Fifteenth Army Corps, under Sherman. Mr. Myers was in the army with Sherman which marched from Atlanta to the sea. He assisted in the capture of Fort McAllister and took part in fourteen battles. In fact, he fought with Sherman until the close of the war. He was known for his courage, efficiency and valor. He was discharged at Little Rock, Arkansas, August 15, 1865. Among the battles in which Mr. Myers participated were those of Resaca, Dallas, Dalton, Buzzard's Roost, Nickajack Creek (where he was wounded in the hip by a shell), Big Kenesaw Mountain, Little Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Fort McAllister, Raleigh, North Carolina, and Columbus, South Carolina. He participated in the Grand Review at Washington, D. C., at the end of the war.

Having sold his eighty-acre farm before he went to the war, he returned to Paulding county, Ohio, and rented a tract of land for three years, later selling his lease, and then removed to his present farm of eighty-five acres, on June 6, 1866. He has added to this farm until, at one time, he owned more than three hundred and fifty acres. During late years, however, he has sold most of it because of his failing health and age. Mr. Myers.



has fifty-five acres adjoining the thirty where he resides. He also has forty acres in section 28 of Perry township. Throughout his life, Mr. Myers has followed general farming. He was active until 1888, when he was injured in a railroad wreck at Anthony, Ohio, near Springfield.

Samuel Myers has also followed road contracting and has built many roads in Putnam county. He owned a stone-crusher at one time, but sold it to John Blosser, of Cloverdale, Ohio. He has also been engaged in the timber business, more or less, since 1866.

Samuel Myers, Jr., was married on April 14, 1862, to Mary Elizabeth Mercer, who was born at Cuyhoga Falls, near Cleveland, Ohio, on August 1, 1842, the daughter of Steven and Catherine (Dillworth) Mercer. Mr. Myers got his license from the probate judge of Paulding county, Ohio, and was married by the justice of the peace, J. R. Cushman.

Samuel and Mary Elizabeth (Mercer) Myers have had three children: Abraham H., who was born on November 19, 1863, died on March 20, 1899; Margaret Catherine, born August 22, 1866, married George Curtis, a farmer of Washington township, Paulding county, and has seven children, Mrs. Julia McCullough, Samuel, John, Bertha, Mary, Merle and William Bryan; Susan, May 24, 1868, who married Andrew J. Ladd, a farmer of Brown township, Paulding county, Ohio, and had four children by this marriage, Flossie and Florence, twins, and Henry and Samuel. Florence is deceased. Susan had previously married Clyde Hamilton, who died, and to this union there were born two children, George, deceased, and Mrs. Malinda Bright. Abraham, the eldest child, who died in 1899, was married to Sarah E. Combs and had four children, Walter, Bertha, William J. and Abram.

Mrs. Samuel Myers, as heretofore noted, is the daughter of Steven and Catherine (Dillworth) Mercer, the former of whom settled in Williams county, Ohio. He was the son of John Mercer, also a native of Pennsylvania. From Williams county, Ohio, Steven Mercer came to Cuyahoga county, Ohio, where he was married. After living here for a time, they moved to Providence, Henry county, Ohio, across from Grand Rapids, Ohio, on the Maumee river, where he lived until his death in 1850. He was a stone mason by trade and followed this trade all of his life, although he was reared on a farm. His wife is still living with her son, Abraham, in Michigan. She is a cousin of William McKinley and is now eighty-seven years of age. Steven and Catherine Mercer had four children: Mary E., the wife of Mr. Myers; Francis, who was killed in the army; Thomas, who lives at Alverton, Williams county, Ohio, and Isaac, who died on December 25, 1913. After the death of Steven Mercer, his wife was married again to William Richardson, and

to this union were born two children: Abraham, who lives in Michigan, and Mrs. Victorine Menervia Jane Whittner, of Cleveland, Ohio.

Samuel Myers is a man of congenial temperament, is frank in his manners and is well informed regarding all current, political and economic issues. He is a man of unquestioned honesty and his word has never been doubted. Mr. Myers has seen many changes in the county and township where he lives and has undergone many hardships during his life. He has seen much happiness and much sorrow. He is a man widely known throughout Putnam county as one of the pioneer citizens, and no history of Putnam county would be complete that did not make specific mention of his life and his work. He has been a Republican in politics and has served in various minor offices, including that of township trustee. During the time when the national Grange flourished in Putnam county he was prominent in the work of that organization. He is also a member of Weiser Post No. 63, Grand Army of the Republic.

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#### MATTHIAS SCHROEDER.

The Schroeder family located in Putnam county, Ohio, in 1834, a year or so after the first German settlers came to this county. At that time the whole county was a heavily-timbered swamp, and many years were to elapse before much of this was under cultivation. Matthias Schroeder bought his present farm more than a quarter of a century ago, and has gradually improved it until he has a well-cultivated farm which yields a comfortable living for his family. He is an energetic and enterprising farmer, and while he has devoted himself primarily to his own interests, yet he has not neglected to take his share in the life of the community about him.

Matthias Schroeder, the son of Henry and Catherine (Hohenbrink) Schroeder, was born on January 23, 1856, in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio. His father was born in Glandorf, Germany, in 1821, and his wife was born in the same place.

Henry Schroeder came to America at the age of thirteen, with his parents, Nicholas and Anna (Trame) Schroeder, and located in Greensburg township. There were very few settlers in the county at that time, the German emigration to this county having commenced only two or three years before this time. Henry Schroeder grew to manhood in Putnam county and married Catherine Hohenbrink, who was about twenty years of age when she came from Germany to Putnam county, with her parents, William

Hohenbrink and wife. Her parents settled in Glandorf, in this county, and later, bought land in Pleasant township, where they lived the remainder of their lives. Henry Schroeder and his wife lived and died in Greensburg township, and there reared a family of thirteen children, five of whom are deceased. The deceased children are as follow: Wilhelmina, who died at the age of nine; Clara, who died at the age of eighteen; Mary, who died in 1906, leaving her husband, Joseph Dreling, with nine children; Dorothy, who died about the year 1903, leaving her husband, August Jostpill, with six children; and Ignatius, who died in 1904, as the result of a fall from a tree, leaving his wife and five children. The living children are John, William, Charles, Matthias, Frank, Mrs. Anna Duling, Mrs. Theresa Alker and Mrs. Catherine Stechschulte.

Matthias Schroeder was reared on his father's farm and received such education as was afforded by the district schools of his township. After his marriage, in 1883, Mr. Schroeder lived in Greensburg township until 1889, and then bought his present farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Liberty township, two miles north of West Leipsic. The farm was not very much improved when he bought it, but under his good management it is one of the most productive pieces of land in the township. He placed the comfortable home, in which he is now living with his family, on the farm, built a large barn and otherwise improved the place. As he prospered from year to year, was able to make extensive improvements and also add another forty acres to his original purchase.

Matthias Schroeder was married on May 3, 1882, to Mary Ellerbrock, who was born at Glandorf, in this county, on November 17, 1860, and is a daughter of William and Marianna (Udendorf) Ellerbrock. The history of Mrs. Schroeder's father's family is given elsewhere in this volume. Matthias and Mary (Ellerbrock) Schroeder are the parents of ten children, all of whom are still living: Adeline, born on March 27, 1883; Philomena, March 5, 1885; Elizabeth, April 6, 1887; Harry, June 26, 1889; Frances, May 3, 1891; Emma, May 21, 1893; Cornelia and Julius, twins, on February 26, 1896; Vincent, May 24, 1900, and Helen, July 6, 1902. Adeline is the wife of Frank Niese, a farmer of Liberty township, and has four children, three of whom are living, Vincent, Norbert and Frances; Philomena is a nun in the Franciscan convent at Tiffin, Ohio; Elizabeth is the wife of Lawrence Niese, a farmer of Palmer township, and has two children, Waldo and Mary; Harry is a farmer of Liberty township and married Mary Kohls; Frances married Howard Niese, a farmer of this township and has one son, Matthias; Emma married Fred Kaufman, a farmer of this county and has

one son, Albert. The rest of the children are still single and living with their parents.

The family are all loyal members of the Catholic church. Matthias Schroeder is a Democrat, and although he has never been an aspirant for public office, he takes an intelligent interest in the political affairs of his party. He is a man of industry and integrity and has so lived as to commend himself to all those with whom he has been associated.

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### LUDWIG STUBER.

The whole career of Ludwig Stuber has been spent in Putnam county, Ohio, where he was born more than half a century ago. His parents were of German ancestry, his father coming direct from Germany to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1855. Mr. Stuber has been a life-long farmer and started in a very humble way, after his marriage, and year after year has seen him more prosperous, and his present farm of two hundred and twenty-six acres is abundant proof that he has not labored in vain. He has been progressive in his methods, and by unceasing industry has asquired a very comfortable competence for himself and family.

Ludwig Stuber, the son of Christian and Catherine (Kleopfer) Stuber, was born in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1864. His father was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, and married a Miss Fritz, in his native land. He came to America in 1855 and located in Putnam county, where he bought eighty acres, and there his first wife died, leaving one son, Christian Stuber, Jr. Christian Stuber moved to Crawford county, Ohio, about 1856 or 1857, and shortly afterward to Seneca county, this state, where he married Catherine Kleopfer, who was born in Oberholm, Wurttemberg, Germany, and came to America with two brothers and one sister, settling in Seneca and Paulding counties, Ohio. Christian Stuber moved back to Palmer township, in this county, in 1857, and lived there the remainder of his life, dying on April 22, 1907. At the time of his death he owned four hundred and fifty acres of land. His widow survived him until September 19, 1913.

Ludwig Stuber is one of four sons and two daughters born to his father's second marriage. The other children are: Mary, Lida, Daniel, John and Henry. Ludwig grew to maturity on his father's farm in Palmer township, and after his marriage, in 1890, he moved to his present home in the southwestern part of section 1, of Liberty township. About forty acres of the farm were cleared and partly tiled, but a large part of it was still cov-

ered with primitive forest. He cleared and drained the land and, in 1897, put up a good barn with slate roof. Since that time, he has built many other good buildings and now owns one hundred and ninety-six acres of land, where he lives, and thirty acres along the Nickel Plate railroad on the west side of Liberty township. He is a genial farmer, dividing his time and attention between stock and grain raising, so as to get the best results from his efforts.

Ludwig Stuber was married on August 10, 1890, to Ella Gottmeier, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Fred and Sarah (Schweitzer) Gottmeier, and to this union eight children have been born, five of whom are living: Alvin, on May 30, 1894; Homer, December 25, 1895; Ruth, September 16, 1897; Winifred, March 14, 1900, and Helen, December 26, 1903. The three children deceased are as follows: Lillie, who died at the age of two; John, who died at the age of two weeks, and Mabel, who died on October 3, 1908, at the age of fifteen years and six months.

Frederick Gottmeier, the father of Mrs. Stuber, was born on January 14, 1841, in Baden, Germany, a son of Philip Gottmeier and his first wife. Frederick was a babe in arms when his mother died, and his father later married Christina Seyfried, and came to America in 1844. He spent the first year at Easton, Pennsylvania, and then located at Lancaster, Fairfield county, where he lived until Frederick grew up and married. Frederick Gottmeier was married a few months before he was twenty-one, to Elizabeth Dimple, who died six years later, leaving two daughters, Louise and Elizabeth. A son, John, died before his mother. Louise is the wife of Jacob Kratzer, of Liberty township, and has eight children; Elizabeth married Aaron Charles, of Liberty township, and has three children living and one deceased. On June 10, 1869, Mr. Gottmeier married Sarah Schweitzer, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, December 28, 1852, a daughter of Michael and Rose (Wolflinger) Schweitzer, both natives of Switzerland, who lived and died near Lancaster, Ohio. Frederick Gottmeier and wife moved to Putnam county and settled in Liberty township in 1871, where he bought a farm and lived until about 1895. He then retired and bought a home at Leipsic Junction, and died on May 24, 1915. Five children have been born to Frederick Gottmeier by his second marriage: Mrs. Ella Stuber, Mrs. Rebecca Mack, Samuel, Mrs. Emma Miller and Mrs. Myrtle Compton. Mrs. Stuber was a year old when her parents located in Liberty township, in this county, and here she has since resided.

Ludwig Stuber and his family are loyal members of the Lutheran church and deeply interested in its welfare.

## CHARLES T. HENRY.

A man of unusual energy and ability who has lived practically his whole life in Putnam county, Ohio, is Charles T. Henry, a substantial farmer of Liberty township. Born in Fairfield county, Ohio, he located in this county before he was three years of age with his parents, and here has since made his home. As a young man, he taught school for a few years and since that time has engaged in general farming. About twelve years ago he lost one of his arms in a corn shredder, nevertheless, still feeds a corn shredder with his one remaining hand. Such a disaster would dishearten many men, but Mr. Henry has probably been more successful since the accident than before because he draws on the resources of a sound intelligence to aid him in his daily labors. He has been active in the affairs of his county and held various official positions, in all of which he has given eminent satisfaction.

Charles T. Henry, the son of Levi P. and Jennie M. (McCandlish) Henry, was born on September 15, 1871, in Fairfield county, Ohio. For history of subject's parents, reader is referred to sketch of Levi Henry, which appears elsewhere in this volume.

Charles T. Henry was about eighteen months old when his parents moved to their present home in this county northwest of Leipsic, and on that farm he grew to manhood. He received a good common school education, and later, taught two years in the public school of this county, one year each in Blanchard and Van Buren township. After his marriage, Mr. Henry took charge of his father's farm and, in 1900, bought a farm adjoining his father's on the north. He has erected a fine country home and an excellent barn and various outbuildings on this farm, and now operates it together with the old home place.

Charles T. Henry was married on September 24, 1896, to Mary Mahala Neeland, who was born near Rick's Mills in Muskingum county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Andrew and Amelia (Ledman) Neeland, and to this union three children have been born, Gladys Edith, Robert P. and Jennie Amelia. The eldest daughter is attending high school and the other two children are still in the grades.

Mrs. Charles T. Henry's father was born at Clayville, Guernsey county, Ohio, and was a son of James Neeland and wife, an old and prominent family of Irish descent. The family, for two or three generations, were blacksmiths in Guernsey county. Amelia Ledman, the mother of Mrs. Henry, was a daughter of James and Massy Mahala (Cassidy) Ledman, and

was reared near Rick's Mills in Muskingum county, Ohio. Andrew Neeland was a blacksmith in early life and, after his marriage, farmed in Muskingum county. The Neeland family located three miles east of Leipsic along the Nickel Plate railroad about 1879, this railroad being built through the county during that year. Mrs. Henry has a distinct recollection of seeing the first engine run by her father's farm. Mr. Neeland continued farming near Leipsic until two or three years ago, when he retired from active work on account of old age and is now making his home with Charles T. Henry and wife. Mrs. Neeland died in March, 1906. He died on December 6, 1914.

Charles T. Henry takes an active interest in the Democratic party, and has served as clerk of Liberty township for five years, and for the past four years has served as a member of the county fair board. He is now serving his second term as a member of the school board of his township. In the spring of 1912, he was a candidate for recorder of Putnam county, but as he was a strong temperance man and votes "dry" whenever occasion offers, he lost the support of the liquor interests and, consequently, the election. Mr. Henry is a member of the Patrons of Husbandry, and he and his family are loyal members of the Presbyterian church, formerly holding their membership in the United Presbyterian church, which is now discontinued in Leipsic. Mr. Henry is a man of excellent character and is regarded as one of the leaders in all public-spirited movements in his township.

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#### HENRY WARD.

The United States is the most cosmopolitan nation of the earth. Her citizens are drawn from every country and every clime. A residence of a few years in this country so imbues these people with the American spirit that they become our best citizens. No country has furnished better or more substantial citizens to the United States than the Emerald Isle. From this island have come many families who have won prominent places in the communities where they settled. Among the many immigrants of Irish descent, who have come to Ohio, there is none who are more loyal to their adopted country than the Ward family of Putnam county.

Henry Ward, one of the well-known farmers of Liberty township, was born in Hancock county, Ohio, on June 8, 1872, the son of Francis and Sarah E. (Bibler) Ward.

Francis Ward was born on November 17, 1831, in Glenest, in the dis-

trict of Kildare, near King's county, Ireland. He came to America when a lad of fifteen, in 1847, and the family were on a sailing vessel seven weeks on the voyage to America. At New York, both parents and one daughter died of typhoid fever within two or three weeks after landing. The seven orphans had an uncle in Licking county, Ohio, sixteen miles east of Columbus, who wired the authorities to send them to Cleveland. He met them in Cleveland and the children were divided among his married sons and daughters.

Francis Ward came to Ohio in September, 1847, and settled first in Licking county. Soon after the close of the Civil War, he settled in Hancock county, southwest of Findlay. In that county, he married Sarah E. Bibler and settled along the county line north of Bluffton. His wife was born ten miles southeast of Findlay and was the daughter of David and Elizabeth (Orvick) Bibler. Elizabeth Orvick was born in York county, Pennsylvania, on July 14, 1818, and came to Hancock county with her parents in October, 1835. She married David Bibler, August 27, 1840, and began housekeeping on the farm where she and her husband reared their family and spent all of their days. She died on April 7, 1900, at the age of eighty-one.

Sarah E. Bibler lived nearly all the remainder of her life, after her marriage, in Hancock county. She was the mother of three children by her marriage to Francis Ward, Lillie Belle, who married Clem Ward and lives in Lincoln, Michigan; Rhoda Jane, who married Robert Semler and lives between Findlay and Arcade, and Henry, who is the subject of this sketch.

The family moved to Putnam county in 1873 and located in Liberty township. On September 2, 1874, Mrs. Ward died, and after her death, Mr. Ward returned to Hancock county. He married Mrs. Catherine Payne (nee Treece) in 1876, and the year following this marriage, returned to Putnam county, where he resided until his death, August 13, 1902. He left two children by his second marriage, Mrs. Sarah E. Swihart and Mrs. Luella Wagner. The mother of these children died in March, 1909.

Henry Ward came to Putnam county with his father and after the death of his mother, lived with his maternal grandfather until his father married again, when he came back to Putnam county and lived on the home farm until his marriage.

Henry Ward was married on December 27, 1894, to Virdie Casteel, who was born in the northeastern part of Liberty township and who is the daughter of Andrew and Margaret (Sterret) Casteel. Mrs. Henry Ward lived upon the farm with her parents until her marriage.

Andrew Casteel was born on April 22, 1834, in Licking county, Ohio.



He is the son of Thomas and Salome (Livingstone) Casteel. Andrew Casteel was reared on a farm and, at the outbreak of the Civil War, enlisted in the First Ohio Cavalry, in Company D, and served until the end of the war. He was with Sherman's army, in Tennessee, and in the battles of Stone's River, Lookout Mountain, Shiloh, Chickamauga, and Missionary Ridge, as well as a number of other important battles fought by the western army. He was never wounded or captured. At the end of the war, Andrew Casteel came to Putnam county and purchased land in Liberty township. He now owns about four hundred and seventy-six acres, sixty of which are in Michigan, and has farmed all of his life. He was married, in 1865, to Margaret Sterret, a native of Licking county and a daughter of Robert and Nancy (McLaughlin) Sterret. Andrew and Margaret (Sterret) Casteel have been the parents of three sons and five daughters, Della, who lives at home and keeps house for her father; Nancy Alice, who is the wife of Joseph Bishop, of Henry county, and has six children; Minnie Virginia, who is the wife of Mr. Ward; Wesley, who lives in Henry county, married Belle Leary, and has three children; Andrew Smith, who died in April, 1905, married Cora Bishop and had five children; Laura Ellen, the wife of Orville Lazenby, who lives on the east line of Liberty township and has three children; Leroy Gibson, who lives at Quincy, Michigan, married Rhoda Newell and has five children; Salome Elizabeth, who died in February, 1911, was the wife of Charles Lazenby, of Henry county, and had two daughters. Mrs. Andrew Casteel died on November 6, 1906. She was a member of the Disciples church, which she joined in Licking county when a young woman. Here she belonged to the West Bellmore church. Mr. Casteel is one of the oldest living residents of Putnam county, now being past eighty years of age, but still does his own work. His sight is still very good and he often reads by lamp light until ten or eleven o'clock at night. He has kept up with the times in every particular and is a well-informed man.

After the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ward, he farmed in Henry county two years and then came to the Casteel farm where he lived for eight years. In the fall of 1905, he bought eighty acres in Liberty township, south of Prentiss, where he now resides.

To Henry and Virdie (Casteel) Ward, seven children have been born, Francis, who is now attending the high school at Leipsic; Byron; Leroy; Clyde; Lloyd; Burl and Irven. Francis took part in the corn contest in the fall of 1914, and raised one hundred and twelve bushels to the acre and fifty-six pounds to the bushel. One hundred pounds of this corn was shelled and produced eighty-four pounds of shelled corn and only sixteen pounds of cobs,

a remarkable record. As a reward, he was given a trip to Washington, D. C. He stood highest in Liberty, Van Buren and Blanchard townships.

Henry Ward is a leading member of the Odd Fellow lodge and is also one of the leading citizens of Liberty township and Putnam county, a man who is highly respected where he resides.

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### JACOB FREDERICK MOEHRING.

When Jacob Frederick Moehring came to Putnam county, Ohio, with his wife, in 1868, he had no money to invest in land and started in to work for seventy-five cents a day, and within a couple of years he was able to buy a farm of forty acres and it was indeed a desolate looking place. Ponds alternated with knolls of dry land, and old stumps had floated down and scattered themselves promiscuously over the farm. Under such conditions, Mr. Moehring began farming for himself, and as the years went by, he had the satisfaction of seeing his farm under cultivation. Since 1870, he has doubled his acreage and this same swampy land on which he located forty-five years ago, is now worth at least two hundred dollars an acre. The story of the reclamation of this swampy farm from its primitive condition to one of the most productive farms of the county, covers the active period of Mr. Moehring's life.

Jacob Frederick Moehring, the son of Christopher and Mary (Wolfinger) Moehring, was born in 1840, in Fairfield county, Ohio. Both of his parents were born in Germany, his father coming to America when a young man and locating in Fairfield county, Ohio. In that county he married and spent the remainder of his life on a farm.

Jacob F. Moehring was reared on his father's farm in Fairfield county and received the limited education which was provided by the district schools of his home township. He remained at home until his marriage in 1862, and then spent the first two years of his married life in Fairfield county, when he came to Putnam county and located in Liberty township, where he worked on a farm by the day for the first two years. He saved his money and was able to make a payment on a forty-acre tract of land which cost him forty dollars an acre. He gradually brought this under cultivation and, a few years later, bought another forty acres, paying fifty dollars an acre for his second purchase. Each succeeding year has found him more prosperous and his farm more productive. Every improvement which is now on the farm

has been placed there by him and today there is not a better farm in the township. Good management and ceaseless industry have been the keynotes to his success while thriftiness has enabled him to prosper to an unusual degree. For nearly fifty years he and his good wife have labored together, shared each other's trials and sorrows and lived such a life as has endeared them to everyone with whom they have come in contact.

Jacob F. Moehring was married on January 28, 1856, to Mrs. Rebecca L. (Miller) Miller. She was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, near Lancaster, and is a daughter of John C. and Rebecca (Ridenour) Miller. Her father came from Germany when he was three years of age with his parents and located in Fairfield county, Ohio, where he lived the remainder of his life.

Mrs. Jacob F. Moehring had one son by her first marriage, Harvey, who now lives in Liepsic. He married first Ada Foltz, and to this union were born three children, Myrtle, Harry and May. Myrtle is the widow of Charles White and has two children, Henry and Josephine. Harry married Myrtle Heindlein and lives on a farm near Mr. Moehring, and has one daughter, Evelyn Ireta. May, the youngest child of Harvey Miller, by his first marriage, is the wife of Judson Blakeley. After the death of his first wife Harvey Miller married Rosa Ward, and to his second marriage have been born three children, Oliver, Roy and Refina McCleta.

Jacob F. Moehring and his family are loyal members of the Lutheran church. They have traveled life's pathway side by side for nearly half a century, and are one of the most highly-respected couples in the township, where they have made their home so many years.

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### JOHN HERMAN MEYER.

The best history of a community or state is that which deals most with the lives and activities of its people, especially of those who, by their own endeavors and indomitable energy, have forged to the front and placed themselves where they deserve the title of progressive men. In this brief review will be found the record of one who has outstripped the less active plodders on the highway of life, and achieved a career of marked success in agricultural affairs, and a name which all men who know him, delight to honor, because of his upright life and his habits of thrift and industry.

John Herman Meyer was born on April 7, 1866, a short distance southwest of Ottawa, near where he now lives. He is a son of George B. and Anna Mary (Moening) Meyer, who are referred to elsewhere in this volume.

John Herman Meyer was reared on the home farm, attending the district schools of his home township, remaining on the farm assisting his father until his marriage, which took place in 1890, when he was united to Elizabeth Gertrude Kleman. She was born in the north part of Pleasant township, and is a daughter of Henry and Mary Gertrude (Kottenbrock) Kleman, born in Putnam county, of German parents who came here about 1835.

Mrs. Meyer was reared south of Ottawa, in Pleasant township, coming to Glandorf, at the age of thirteen, with her parents. Henry Kleman made his home on a farm in Pleasant township, after his marriage, and lived there the remainder of his life. He was killed by lightning when Mrs. Meyer was only three months old. Her mother afterwards married Anton Unverferth, in 1880, and they made their home in Greensburg township. By her first marriage, Mrs. Meyer's mother had eight children, of whom six are still living. No children were born to the second marriage. The six children now living, who were born to her first marriage, are John, Henry, George, Ben, Anna, now Mrs. Unverferth, and Mrs. Elizabeth Meyer. The mother of these children died in Greensburg township in 1890.

After Mr. Meyer's marriage, he continued farming on land near the old home place, on what is known as the old Ellerbrock farm, and here has lived ever since. His father purchased the place when John H. Meyer was six years old. At that time the old house has been moved off and the old barn was practically worthless. Herman Meyer tore it down and has erected a nice, large and modern house, and has also put up a commodious barn. The latter was erected in 1894, and he has other numerous outbuildings in a good state of repair. Like his two brothers, Mr. Meyer has owned and operated a thrashing machine outfit for many years, his father before him having also conducted the same business. All the members of the family are interested in machinery. Mr. Meyer is well-known in Putnam county. He has a good farm of ninety-nine acres, and is a thrifty and enterprising farmer.

John H. and Elizabeth Gertrude (Kleman) Meyer are the parents of nine children, three of whom are deceased. Charles C., who married Margaret Koerner, lives in the house next to his father, and has one son, Urban, while Emma, Philomena, Loretta, Lucy and Marcella are living at home with their parents. The three deceased children are Anna, Herman and Edward.

John H. Meyer and family are all devout members of the Catholic church at Glandorf and he of the St. John's Society. The Meyer family is not only well known, but highly respected in Ottawa township, where they have lived for so many years.

## JOHN MILTON SMITH.

One of the successful farmers of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, is John Milton Smith, who was born on December 27, 1852, in Pleasant township, the son of William and Barbara (McLaughlin) Smith.

William Smith was born and reared in Licking county, Ohio, and there married. He came to Putnam county, about 1846, and located in Pleasant township where he entered government land and made his permanent home. Later, he bought more land. His wife died, leaving one daughter, Elizabeth, the wife of Edward Mack of Leipsic.

After the death of his wife, William Smith went back to Licking county and was there a few years when he married Barbara McLaughlin, a native of Licking county. He returned to his old pioneer home in Pleasant township and lived there until 1866, when he moved to Liberty township and located in the northeast quarter of section 27, where he bought one hundred and twenty acres and farmed it the remainder of his life. He took an active interest in public affairs and died in 1880, at the age of fifty-seven. His wife died in 1893.

There were six children born to this second union, Charles, John, Martha, Lawrence, Elmer and Laura.

John Milton Smith was married in 1881 to Mary E. Henry. She was born on the farm where she now lives, in the southeast quarter of section 3, Liberty township, the daughter of John and Rebecca (Knop) Henry. Her father was born in Pennsylvania and came to Putnam county when a boy with his parents, Samuel and Elizabeth Henry, who located first in Wyandot county, during the Civil War, and afterward in Putnam county in Liberty township. Rebecca Knop was the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Knop, who came from Pennsylvania, settling in Liberty township.

John Henry farmed in Liberty township all of his life. He died in 1887, and Mrs. Henry died during the early seventies, while Mrs. Smith was a little child.

When Mr. and Mrs. Smith were married, he began farming for himself on the farm where he now lives, in Liberty township, and has farmed there ever since. He is now the owner of two hundred and forty acres of land consisting of two well-improved farms with good houses, barns and fences.

John Milton and Mary E. (Henry) Smith are the parents of three children living and one dead, Mark W., Clyde H., Clarence and Everett. Mark W. married Gertha White and is farming on one of his father's farms. They have three children, Marie, Dale and Forest; Clyde H. married Eva

Miller and lives on his own farm near Prentiss. They have two children, Domer and Ray; Clarence died at the age of seventeen, and Everett is unmarried and at home.

During the last ten years, Mr. Smith has been a member of the school board and is also a trustee of Liberty township. He has given entire satisfaction in performing the duties of these offices. He is a member of the Republican party. Mr. Smith and his wife are members of the Evangelical church, earnest and active in their religious life. Mr. Smith is a progressive man of excellent standing in the community. He is quiet and unpretentious but, nevertheless, one of the substantial citizens of Liberty township.

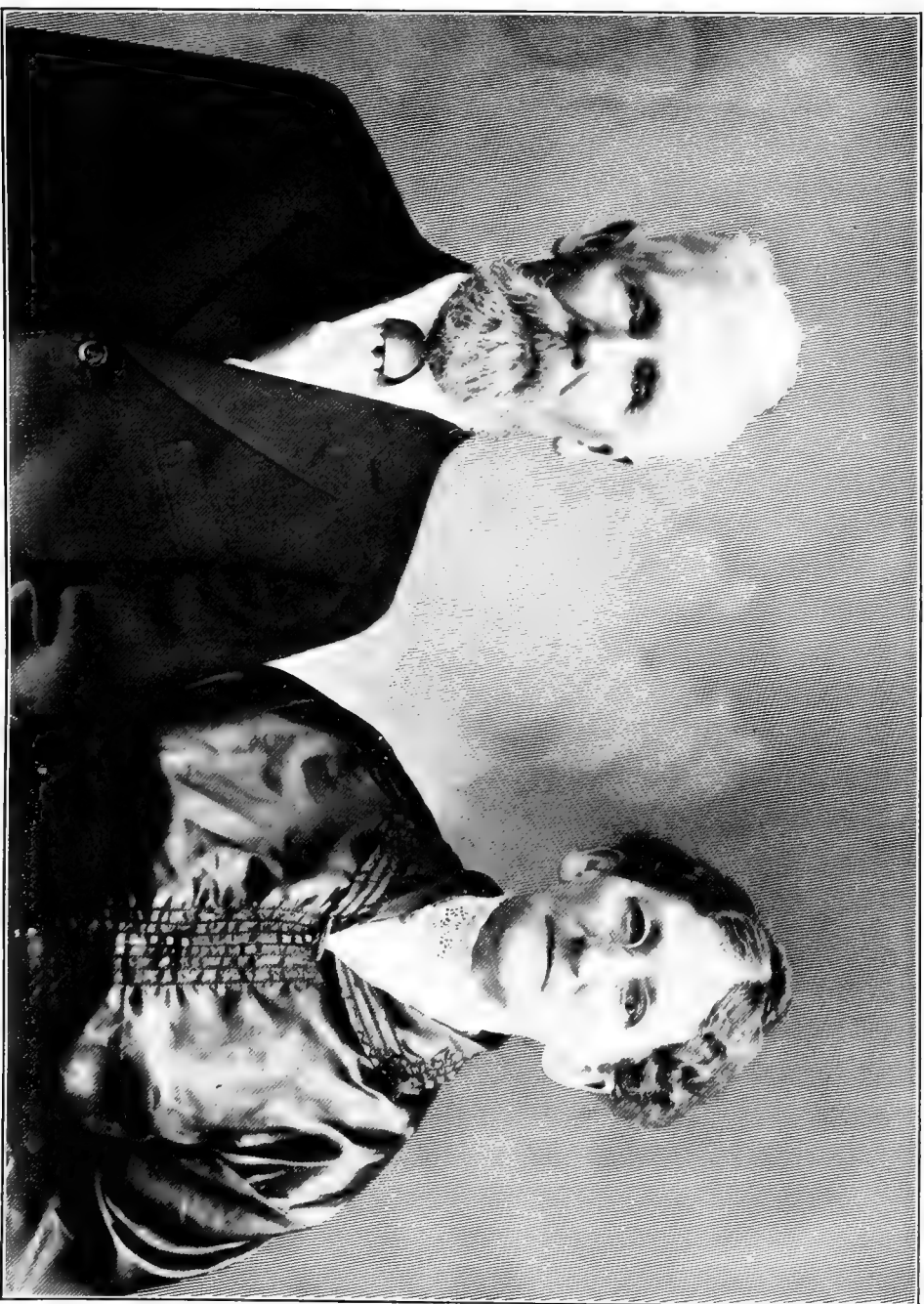
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### JOHN F. SHAFER.

The best title one can establish to the high and generous esteem of an intelligent community, is a protracted and honorable residence therein. John F. Shafer has resided in this locality all his life, having been born in Perry township, on the Layton farm, known as the Wilcox farm at that time, on June 4, 1846. His career has been a commendable one and well deserving of being perpetuated on the pages of a historical work of the nature of the one in hand. Knowing that the county was destined to take a high rank in the productive and rich locality of the North, Mr. Shafer applied himself very closely to his work and waited for the future to bring its reward, and today he is numbered among the substantial men of the county.

John F. Shafer is a son of John and Susan (Dickey) Shafer, the former of whom was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, but who removed to Allen county, where he farmed for a number of years. Here he was married, and subsequently moved to Putnam county, to what is known as the Layton farm. When John F. Shafer was about two years old his father moved to Paulding county, and here John F. Shafer grew up and was educated. His father died in Paulding county, and John F. returned to Putnam county, and was married here at the age of twenty-seven years.

John F. Shafer was married in 1873 to Ruth Varner, the daughter of Jacob and Eliza (Guyten) Varner, who was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county. After his marriage Mr. Shafer rented a farm in Perry township of his father, and here he lived for seven years. At the end of this time he removed to his present farm of one hundred and sixty-eight acres, where he now lives. He first located on this farm in 1881, and has since added to it until he is now the owner of three hundred and twenty-two acres.



MR. AND MRS. JOHN F. SLATER.





Just after attaining his majority Mr. Shafer worked out by the month for a short time. He also spent three months in the West, but did not like that country and returned to Putnam county, where he has since been engaged in general farming and stock raising. The second money he ever earned he invested in Shorthorn cattle, and for the past forty-seven years has made a specialty of this kind of live stock, and has met with commendable success in this line. He has always made it a rule to breed only thoroughbreds. He keeps very fine horses, cattle, hogs and sheep, and raises all kinds of live stock in considerable number. All of the forage produced on Mr. Shafer's land is fed to his stock. He ships his products throughout the entire country, but the greater part of it has been sold in the nearby markets. Mr. Shafer has made all of the improvements upon his land, including house and barns, with the exception of an old house on the farm, which was there when Mr. Shafer acquired it. The land was mostly cleared when Mr. Shafer purchased it, but he has added ditches and fences and improved it in many ways, making it one of the finest and most productive in this section of the county.

John F. and Ruth (Varner) Shafer are the parents of five children, the first-born dying in infancy. The others are as follow: Mrs. Carrie Simon, of Greensburg township, is the mother of six children, Paul, Helen, Mary, George, Margery and Ruth Anna; Maud, now living at home, was formerly engaged in the teaching profession; Ralph, living on the home farm, married Blanche Simons, and they have two children, Geraldine and Howard; Dot, who died at the age of fourteen years.

John F. Shafer is not a member of any lodge. He is a Republican in politics, and served his fellow citizens for three years as township trustee; has also served as a member of the school board for sixteen years, although not active at the present time. For two years he was ditch supervisor, but is no longer active in this work. Mrs. Shafer is a member of the Mt. Zion United Brethren church, as are the rest of the family.

John F. Shafer was one of eight children, three of whom, besides himself, are still living: Jacob, a farmer living in Paulding county, Ohio; William, of Dupont, Ohio, and Jefferson, also a resident of Paulding county.

John F. Shafer is a congenial man and feels proud of his success, as a result of his careful planning and frugal saving. He began life with absolutely nothing, and now has a fine farm, with comfortable, well-painted and adequate buildings, a fine herd of Shorthorn cattle and other live stock. He is a good judge of cattle and other stock and his advice is often sought by people of his community. He has been a hard worker all his life, and his wife has been a faithful helpmate and aided him greatly in his success.

## ALBERT H. THRAILKILL.

Among the business men of Putnam county, Ohio, who have achieved no small measure of success in a personal way and whose relations with the public are founded upon cordial and honorable personal relations, is Albert H. Thrailkill, the general manager of the Leipsic Lumber & Coal Company, of Leipsic, Ohio. He is a man, who, at the present time, is in the prime of life, and who has before him many active years. His past accomplishments are to be accepted as a criterion of his future achievements. Few men will have accomplished more, when the time comes to give up the active cares of business, than the subject of this sketch. He has had a wide and varied experience in various enterprises, and these experiences have furnished a splendid equipment for the efficient management of the firm of which he is now the executive head. Mr. Thrailkill well deserves the confidence of the public and the patrons of his firm, since his conduct has ever been above reproach, thoroughly upright and honorable, judged by any standard.

Albert H. Thrailkill, son of Richard H. and Samantha (Mitchell) Thrailkill, was born in Monroe township, Putnam county, Ohio, January 1, 1874. The father was born at Westminster, Allen county, Ohio, and was the son of Elias Thrailkill and wife. Richard H. Thrailkill was a valiant soldier in the Civil War, having served in Company E., Fourteenth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and having enlisted before he reached his majority. He had grown to manhood and had been educated in Westminster, Allen county. Having enlisted as a private soldier at Defiance, Ohio, he served a year and a half, and during this period was wounded at Jonesboro, Georgia, and confined in a hospital for some time. When well enough, he was sent home on a furlough and, after being home three months, he joined his regiment and served until the close of the war, being attached to Sherman's army during its memorable march from Atlanta to the sea. Receiving his discharge in May, 1865, at Columbus, Ohio, he returned to Defiance, Ohio, to which the family had moved from Westminster, Allen county, when Richard H. was fifteen years old. After spending some time at Defiance, he moved to a farm in Fayette county, and being there six years, he returned to Defiance, Ohio, and was married to Samantha Mitchell, daughter of John and Jane (Fifer) Mitchell, who bore him two children, Albert H. and Frederick H., the latter of whom is now located at Tulsa, Oklahoma, and is a bookkeeper and collector for the Continental Oil and Well Supply Company, of that place. After his marriage, the father of these children removed from Defiance to Monroe township, Putnam county, and rented eighty acres of

land which Benjamin Fifer, his wife's grandfather, had purchased from the government. After farming here for some two years, he removed to Gilboa, and there worked at the painter's trade. From Gilboa he removed to Columbus Grove, where he worked at his trade for twelve years; after this he worked at his trade for seventeen years at Ottawa, and finally moved to Findlay, Ohio, where he passed away, October 22, 1914, at the age of sixty-six years. Mrs. Samantha (Mitchell) Thrailkill, who was born in Allen county, Ohio, in 1854, and who, during her life, was a companionable wife and loving mother and wise helpmate, passed away, October 9, 1913, at Findlay, Ohio, a year before her husband. Richard H. Thrailkill, although he was not an office-holder, was an active Republican throughout life, and was a member of the Church of God, at Findlay, Ohio, and a devout, earnest and God-fearing man. His wife was a member of the same church.

The paternal grandparents of Albert H. Thrailkill, having been born in Pennsylvania, migrated to Ohio, and settled in Allen county during pioneer times. When they arrived in Allen county, the city of Lima was not as large as Westminster at the present time. Both lived and died in Allen county. Their children were Mrs. Sarah Jane Bell, deceased; Richard H., deceased; Eliza, of Williams county, Ohio; Mrs. Isabelle Giltz, and one who died in infancy. By occupation, Mr. Thrailkill's grandfather was a farmer. His great uncle, a brother of his paternal grandfather and one for whom his father was named, operated the famous old mill at Westminster, and having been ordained as a minister in the Methodist Protestant church, was actively engaged in this profession until some twelve years before his death. The church at Gilboa was one of those on the circuit where he preached. He had come from Westminster, Allen county, to Gilboa, Putnam county. He was a man of charitable impulses and highly respected as well as widely and favorably known. About twelve years before his death, he had removed to Jersey City, in Wood county, and here he lived retired.

Albert H. Thrailkill's maternal ancestors came from Virginia. John Mitchell and Jane (Fifer) Mitchell, his maternal grandparents, were natives of Rockingham county. The great-grandfather, Benjamin Fifer, was a native of Rockingham county, Virginia. The maternal grandfather, Benjamin Fifer, moved from Virginia to Illinois, and from Illinois to Fayette county, Ohio, and from Fayette county to Putnam county, Ohio, finally settling in Monroe township, where he was a farmer and cattle buyer. In Monroe township, Putnam county, he owned eighty acres of land, and was engaged actively as a farmer until his death, about 1872. He improved, cleared and drained this land. They had a family of six children.

Albert H. Thrailkill was only four years old when his parents left their farm in Monroe township, and removed to Columbus Grove. Receiving a good common and high school education in the schools of Columbus Grove, and, growing to manhood in this city, he remained at home until his marriage, before which, however, he had learned the painter's trade, and had followed it in Ottawa, Ohio. Working as a clerk for some time in Ottawa, he was subsequently, employed as yard clerk for the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad, and the Ft. Wayne & Western railroad, at Ottawa, and held this position during a period of four years. Taking charge of the Putnam County Telephone Company, at Ottawa, as manager, one year after his marriage, and immediately after he quit railroad work, Mr. Thrailkill lived in Ottawa, from August 12, 1897, to 1900, resigning this position, he was transferred on August 12, 1900, to the managership of the Leipsic Telephone Company and remained until June 1, 1911, after he spent four months in railroad office work at Leipsic Junction, and then resigned to become manager of the elevator at Miller City, Ohio, owned by J. O. Cruikshank, after which he was transferred to the elevator at McComb, also owned by Mr. Cruikshank. From December, 1911, until September, 1912, he was in the elevator business at Miller City and McComb. He then resigned and moved back to Leipsic, where he became general manager of the Leipsic Lumber and Coal Company. This firm has a large trade in Putnam county in lumber, coal, lime and building materials of all kinds, and its growth and prosperity, during the last two or three years, are no doubt due, in considerable measure, to the efficient management of Mr. Thrailkill.

Albert H. Thrailkill was married, June 16, 1895, to Oread Sprague, who was born on December 6, 1873, in Columbus Grove, Ohio, and who is the daughter of Charles and Mary Jane (Slemmons) Sprague, the former of whom was a native of Putnam county, a druggist at Columbus Grove and who died there in 1876, when Mrs. Thrailkill was three years old. He had been a partner with J. M. Crawford and they had operated a drug store under the name of Crawford & Sprague. Mrs. Thrailkill's mother was born at Kalida. She is now deceased. Mrs. Thrailkill is the only child born to her parents. After having graduated from the high school, at Columbus Grove, she taught several terms of school in Pleasant township, also in the grade school at Leipsic. Albert H. and Oread (Sprague) Thrailkill have two children, Naola, born on June 16, 1904, and Margaret E., May 15, 1906. Naola passed away on April 23, 1905. Margaret attends Leipsic high school.

Although not a member of any lodge, Mr. Thrailkill is an active Republican, and has served six terms as councilman at Leipsic. Both Albert H.

Thraikill and wife are stanch and active members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Leipsic, and Mrs. Thraikill is an active class and missionary worker in the church.

During his entire life, Albert H. Thraikill's happy personal qualities have made him a popular citizen. His industry, enterprise and progressive spirit have been an influence for good in the various communities where he has lived. He is a worthy descendant of ancestors who were pioneers in this section of our great nation and who helped to lay the foundation of this thriving and prosperous citizenship.

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### JOHN H. WHITE.

Among the substantial farmers of Liberty township, this county, there are few who are better known or who have a higher reputation for public spirit than John W. White, who, for many years, has been counted among the leading men of his section of the county. He has done well his part in life and it is but proper that he should be given fitting mention in this volume of biography relating to the men and families of prominence in Putnam county.

John W. White was born in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, on August 11, 1854, the son of Robert and Nancy (Neely) White, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. The Whites moved from Pennsylvania to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1855, and located in the town of Leipsic. Robert White bought a farm north of West Leipsic, but instead of living on this farm, rented for a time, continuing to make his home in Leipsic, but later moved onto his farm, where he made his home until the encroachments of age warned him to retire from the active life on the farm. He moved back to his home in Leipsic, in 1877, and there he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1882. His widow is still living, at a ripe old age, in Leipsic.

John W. White received his early education in the schools of Leipsic, which he supplemented with a course of three terms spent at the normal school in Ottawa, and at the age of nineteen began teaching school. For four years he served as a teacher in the schools of Liberty township, after which he decided to take up farming as his life's vocation and, for a year before his marriage, in 1879, farmed on rented land in that township. In January, 1884, Mr. White bought a farm of eighty acres, one mile west of Prentiss, in section 10, of Liberty township, and moved there the second

year afterward. Here he resided, until 1893, when he moved to the Denhard farm, three miles east of his home and two miles north of Leipsic, where he lived for three years. He moved back to his home place, west of Prentiss, in 1896, where he has lived ever since. He bought forty acres in the south-east quarter of section 14, of Liberty township, and later sold it and bought fifty-eight acres on the Ridge road, three miles northwest of Leipsic, which piece he sold in 1914. He also bought forty acres, known as the Egbert farm, across the road from his home and later bought thirty-five acres, known as the Leatherman farm, just east of the Egbert farm. Since then, he bought twenty-five acres of what was known as the old Auseon farm, just east of the Leatherman tract, making one hundred and seventy-nine acres in his present home tract. After selling the farm on the Ridge road, in November, 1914, he bought the old Heck farm of ninety acres about a mile northwest of Leipsic. All of this land now is in an excellent state of cultivation and Mr. White is widely known as a good farmer and prudent manager.

John H. White was united in marriage, in 1879, to Emma Jane Lenhart, who was born in Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, the daughter of Henry and Adaline (Bracht) Lenhart. Henry, a brother of former county treasurer William S. Lenhart, of Ottawa, was a son of Jacob and Lydia (Sprinkle) Lenhart, both of whom were natives of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, Jacob Lenhart having been for many years a minister of the River Brethren church, to which service he devoted the best energies of his life. His house was used as a place of worship, and services were held there every alternate week for years, while he resided in Mahoning county, and later his place served the same purpose in the counties of Hancock and Putnam. Jacob Lenhart had a large family, consisting of sixteen children, two of whom died in infancy, the others growing to maturity and making useful citizens in their respective places of residence. Henry Lenhart had a twin brother, David C. Lenhart, the father of Harrison Lenhart. Mrs. White is a sister of Mrs. Edwards, widow of the lamented John Edwards, who for many years was one of the towering figures in the financial and industrial life of Putnam county, a biography of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume.

To John H. and Emma Jane (Lenhart) White were born eleven children, all of whom are living, as follow: Gertha May, married Mary Smith, a well-known farmer of Liberty township, and has three children, Marie, Dale and Forest; Lulu, married Jesse Roberts, also of Liberty township, and has two children, Kenneth and Mabel; Bessie, married Clarence Kratzer, living on the Ridge road three miles west of Leipsic, and has one child, a

daughter, Roberta; Velma, married Ernest Kratzer, living two miles west of Leipsic, and has one child, Vivian, living and two dead; Amzi, attending school at Defiance, Ohio; Henry, teaching school in Liberty township, this county; Flossie; Verda; Mabel; Dee and Russell, at home.

John H. White and wife are members of the Lutheran church and are active participants in the various beneficences of that congregation in their neighborhood. They formerly were members of the United Presbyterian church, to which they remained attached as long as there was a church of that denomination within reach. Mr. White is a Republican and takes a proper degree of interest in the politics of the county, being particularly interested in all matters relating to the government of his home township. He gives close attention to the educational interests of his home township and for ten years or more has been a member of the school board, in which capacity his service has been of large value to the schools of Liberty township. He and his family are regarded as among the leaders in their community and are deservedly popular throughout that section of the county.

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#### JOHN B. SCHEY.

In the laborious struggle for an honorable competence and a substantial career on the part of the average farmer, there is little to attract the casual reader in search of a sensational chapter, but to a mind thoroughly awake to the reality and meaning of human existence, there are noble and imperishable lessons in the career of an individual, who, with no other means than a clear head, strong arm and true heart, directed and controlled by correct principles and unerring judgment, conquers adversity and toiling, wins not only pecuniary independence, but what is far greater and higher, the merited respect and confidence of those with whom his active years have brought him in contact. Such a man is John B. Schey, of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, a successful farmer and a well-known citizen of this section.

John B. Schey was born on November 20, 1865, in Franklin county, near Grove City, Ohio, the son of Philip and Catherine (Bouch) Schey, whose life histories are found on another page of this volume. Mr. Schey is also a brother of Peter Schey.

When the Schey family moved to Putnam county in 1868, John B. Schey was only three years old but, nevertheless, he has a vivid memory of their arrival at the log cabin where they were to live for a number of years.

John B. Schey grew up on this farm and saw it cleared and drained and made a profitable and productive property. He recalls also the huge swarms of mosquitoes from the surrounding swamps and the vexations suffered by the people who lived in their vicinity before the swamps were drained.

John B. Schey bought the farm where he now lives in section 3, of Liberty township in 1896, which comprises one hundred and twenty acres. When Mr. Schey purchased the farm it was an old dilapidated-looking place that had been deserted for some time. Mr. Schey cleaned up the house and put in doors and windows and lived in it for about fourteen years. He built the present handsome dwelling in 1908 and has also put up various out-buildings in the meantime, as well as fenced and drained the land. He has one of the finest farms in Liberty township. His land was among the first settled in this part of the county, and up to that time the old house had been used by cattle and sheep for shelter. When he purchased the land, the fireplace in the old house had fallen in, and the soil was worn out and blue. Mr. Schey went to work to improve the place and for years toiled to this end.

John B. Schey was married, in 1892, to Mollie Ginther, who died two years and six months after their marriage. She was the mother of one daughter who died about two months before the death of Mrs. Schey. During this period, Mr. Schey was farming the old home place, but about a year after his marriage, purchased forty acres in the southwest quarter of section 4, of Liberty township. This farm was mostly cleared and he lived here until he purchased his present farm, in 1896. Mr. Schey was married a second time, in 1895, to Emma K. Feight, who was born at New Bedford, Coshocton county, Ohio, along the line of Holmes county. She is the daughter of William and Margaret (Laudenschlager) Feight, the former a native of Pennsylvania and a life-long farmer. Mrs. Schey's mother was a native of Coshocton county and is the daughter of Frederick and Catherine Laudenschlager, who came from Germany in their youth, but who were married in America and early settlers in Coshocton county. Mrs. Schey was about five years old when her parents moved to Elm Center, Liberty township, Putnam county, where they lived until about 1903, when they moved to Townwood, in Van Buren township. They lived here until 1912, when they moved to Tecumseh, Michigan. Mrs. Schey was living at Elm Center when she was married.

To John B. and Emma K. (Feight) Schey ten children have been born, one dying in infancy and two dying when a little more than a year old. The living children are Rollin, Arthur, Dorothy, Clyde, Carrie, Victor and Gladys. Another member of the family circle was Eva Crone, who was born west of



Glandorf and who had lived with Mr. and Mrs. Schey since she was eight years old, and until her marriage, March 22, 1915, to Victor J. Feight. She is considered as one of the family.

John B. Schey is a member of the Grange at Leipsic and he and his family belong to the Lutheran church. Mr. Schey and family are highly respected citizens of Liberty township, where he has gained an enviable reputation for honesty, progressive spirit and enterprise in his vocation. He is a man who, in every respect, merits the esteem of his neighbors and fellow citizens.

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### HENRY W. LITTLE.

Indefatigable industry, sound judgment and wise management have been the elements that have contributed to the success achieved by Henry W. Little, for many years an enterprising and progressive farmer of Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, and who is now the county commissioner-elect of Putnam county. His farming lands have always been well improved and highly productive, and he is numbered among the best farmers of Palmer township. Because of his high character and unquestioned integrity, he enjoys, to a marked degree, the highest respect of the community. Mr. Little has not only been a successful farmer, he has erected buildings upon his land, improved the soil by careful cultivation and drainage and now has a splendid farm, excellently situated.

Henry W. Little is the son of Robert and Anna (Noriot) Little, and was born on December 19, 1871, in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio. Robert Little was the son of Robert Little and wife, who was born in Crawford county, Ohio, and who moved to Putnam county, Ohio, about 1860. They were farmers and pioneers in Palmer township where they settled. They had the following children, Robert, the father of Henry W.; Marshall, Margaret, Isabella and Anna. They farmed for a time in Palmer township, and later, moved to North Creek, where they died.

Mrs. Anna (Noriot) Little was the daughter of Francis and Francois (Raclot) Noriot, natives of Boncourt, France, and who were married in 1823, in Boncourt. They came to America on October 27, 1853, and landed at Findlay, Ohio, December 8, 1853. Francis Noriot and wife settled in Hancock county on a property, where they farmed for a time. Subsequently, they came to Putnam county, Ohio, where they lived, and later returned to Henry county, where he died on September 26, 1866. He was the mayor of

Boncourt, France, at one time. His wife, Francois, was born in December, 1800, and died on February 28, 1898. They had the following children, Francis, deceased; Claude; Anna, the mother of Henry W. Little; Lawrence, deceased; Mary; Celestian; John, deceased; Velaria, and Magdalena, who died in France. Mrs. Anna Little was born in the village of Boncourt, France, and came to America with her parents at the age of twelve years. They settled in Hancock county, Ohio, where she grew up. Later, she came with her parents to Putnam county and also to New Bavaria, Henry county.

Robert Little, the father of Henry W., was educated in Crawford county, Ohio, and lived on his father's farm during his early years. Later, he came to Putnam county, Ohio, where he purchased eighty acres in Palmer township. Here he was married to Anna Noriot. After their marriage, they continued to reside on the farm in Palmer township. He later moved to North Creek, Palmer township, where he retired and died on September 1, 1908. His wife died at North Creek, Palmer township, in 1909. Robert and Anna Little had seven children, Alexander, deceased; Mrs. Elizabeth Gump; Nicholas, deceased; Joseph, who lives in Palmer township; Mrs. Mary Lefever, deceased; Henry, the subject of this sketch; and Robert, who lives near Miller City, Ohio.

Henry W. Little was educated in Palmer township and lived there, during his early life, on his father's farm. He lived there, in fact, until he was twenty-one years of age, when he was married.

Henry W. Little was married on May 18, 1892, to Mary Burkhart, the daughter of John and Gertrude Burkhart, who were farmers of Palmer township, Putnam county. Both died in Palmer township. They had a family of twelve children, of whom William, Henry, Christ, Katherine and Mary are now living.

After his marriage, Henry W. Little continued to live on his father's farm for six months and then moved to a small farm, which he purchased, in Palmer township. He lived here for about four months and then moved to his father-in-law's farm, where he spent ten years. He purchased forty acres in section 14, of Palmer township, and later sold it, buying his present farm which originally consisted of thirty acres and which was inherited by his wife. Subsequently, he has increased the same to one hundred and forty acres. It is located in sections 12 and 1, of Palmer township. Mr. Little has built all of the present buildings. He has improved the farm and erected many rods of fences. The land, however, was cleared when he moved to it. He has a fine farm and excellent soil, which is one of the best in the township.

To Henry W. and Mary (Burkhart) Little, six children have been born,

Grace, Gordon, Bertha, Jessie, Elwood and Pauline, all of whom are at home. Grace married Gilbert Hoffman, of Palmer township, and has one son, Harold. All of the children have been educated in the township schools and Bertha continued her education in the high school at Miller City.

Henry W. Little is not a member of any lodges. Throughout his life, he has been an active Democrat and served as township clerk for two terms and also as township assessor for two terms. On August 11, 1914, Mr. Little was elected as a member of the board of county commissioners of Putnam county.

Henry W. Little's fine farm shows his keen professional spirit. He has always been a hard worker, but, nevertheless, is a congenial man and well liked by his neighbors and the people of Putnam county. Mrs. Little is keenly interested in poultry and has come to be well known as a poultry fancier. She has a fine lot of over two hundred and fifty white Leghorn chickens. The Littles are well known in this section of the county and merit the confidence and esteem in which they are held by their fellow citizens and neighbors.

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#### BOSTWICK F. BURGESS.

The present generation of readers in Putnam county needs no introduction to Bostwick F. Burgess, former sheriff of this county, but in making up history the compiler is actuated by a sense of duty to future generations; hence, no history of Putnam county would be complete without proper mention of the life and services of this former official of the county.

Bostwick F. Burgess was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, on February 18, 1846, the son of Archibald and Agnes (Brownlee) Burgess. His father was a native of Pennsylvania, born about the year 1803, and met a tragic death in this county in June, 1869, having been crushed to death by a train of cars near the town of Columbus Grove, Ohio. His mother was a native of Scotland and was born in the year 1811 and died on November 5, 1858.

To Archibald and Agnes (Brownlee) Burgess were born the following children, James W., Alexander, Elizabeth, Robert, Andrew J., Bostwick F., William C., Charles, Mary, Letitia, John and Agnes. Upon the death of his first wife, Archibald Burgess married Mrs. Martha Davis, to which union were born two children, Dora and Ellen. Archibald Burgess came to Putnam county at an early day and purchased from the government two hundred

acres of land in Pleasant township, the greater part of which he cleared and to which he made additions at various times until he was one of the largest owners of real estate in his part of the county. He was a man of great industry and in addition to his extensive farming operations was locally noted as a breeder of fine stock, especially sheep.

Bostwick F. Burgess was reared a farmer, receiving his education in the schools of Pleasant township where he remained under the parental roof until the year 1864. In February of that year he enlisted in Company D, Twenty-first Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until mustered out at Columbus, Ohio, in July, 1865. During his period of service, Mr. Burgess participated in a number of the bloodiest battles of the war, including Buzzard's Roost, Resaca, Jonesboro, and other engagements of the Atlanta campaign, he having been with Sherman in the celebrated march to the sea. On December 16, 1864, while on a foraging expedition about four miles from Savannah, he was captured by the enemy and held a prisoner of war at Florence and Andersonville, until his release on February 26, 1865. At the time of his capture, Mr. Burgess weighed one hundred and ninety-six pounds, but such was the treatment he received, while in the southern military prisons, that his weight at the time of his release had diminished to less than ninety pounds.

Following his discharge from the service of his country, Mr. Burgess returned to Putnam county and remained with his father on the farm in Pleasant township, until his marriage, in September, 1866, when he began farming for himself and in due time gained possession of a farm of one hundred and seventy acres of finely-improved land in Pleasant township. He remained on this farm for a period of twenty-six years, or until his election to the office of sheriff, in 1894, at which time he moved to the city of Ottawa, where he remained a couple of years following the expiration of his second term of office in 1898, returning to the farm in 1900. He, meanwhile, had added to his original home farm by the presence of an adjoining tract and now owns two hundred and forty-four acres in sections 15 and 22, in Pleasant township, all of which is under a high state of cultivation. Following his retirement to the farm, Mr. Burgess remained there for four years, after which he returned to Ottawa and has lived in the county seat ever since, being very comfortably situated in his modern home at the north-east corner of the public square.

During his two terms of office, sheriff Burgess created a record of service in that office. It was during this time that the hard times of 1894 to 1898 precipitated the foreclosure of several mortgages in Putnam county,

entailing upon the sheriff a most disagreeable duty. It was said, by competent authority, that during this period the sheriff was compelled to act in more foreclosure actions than had been brought during the whole term of sixteen preceding sheriffs. It also fell to his lot to take three of Putnam county's convicted officials to the state's prison at Columbus. Mr. Burgess's official activity has not been confined to the shrievalty, he having served for seventeen years as a member of the school board of Pleasant township and for six years as a member of the city council at Ottawa, in which latter capacity he had much to do with public improvements in the county seat.

On September 6, 1866, Bostwick F. Burgess was united in marriage to Rebecca Norton, a well-known teacher of Putnam county, and to this union were born six children, two of whom, Zella L. and Margaret A., are deceased. Of the survivors, Eva A. married George Gettman, a prosperous farmer of Pleasant township, and has three children, all sons, Clifford, Loyd and George, the former of whom married Grace Teegarden, of Columbus Grove; Cora, who married O. L. Smith, lives at Leipsic, where Mr. Smith is engaged in business as a street building contractor, building stone roads and paved streets. During sheriff Burgess's incumbency, Mr. Smith served as deputy sheriff. He and Mrs. Smith have three sons, Gordon, Raymond and Fred; Francis N., the only son, who lives at Delphos, Ohio, married Ethel Heasley, daughter of Solomon Heasley and wife, and has two sons, Alva and Donald; Zoa, the youngest daughter, who is an accomplished musician, married J. F. Kline, a druggist, and lives at Spencerville, Ohio. The mother of these children died on March 7, 1914, and was widely mourned throughout the county, where she was held in the very highest regard by all. She was a member of the Methodist church and lived her goodness every day, always thinking of the welfare of others, always happiest when making others happy. She was a kind neighbor and friend of all, a faithful wife and loving mother. She was a member of the Pythian Sisters, in which lodge she was highly esteemed.

The parents of Mrs. Burgess were John and Elizabeth (McDole) Norton, natives, respectively, of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. The Nortons were an old New England family and the grandfather of Mrs. Burgess came to Putnam county as early as 1832, entering a tract of government land in section 13 of Pleasant township. This was the family home for many years and there Joel Norton, the grandfather died, and it was on the same farm that John Norton departed this life in May, 1866. Mrs. John Norton's parents were natives of Ireland and came to this country, following their marriage. Mrs. Norton died at her home, in Putnam county, in the year 1850,

at the age of thirty-eight. To John and Elizabeth (McDole) Norton were born six children, as follow: Melissa J., wife of J. W. Fuller; Elizabeth, deceased; Rebecca A., the late Mrs. Burgess; Rosetta and Violette, twins, the former of whom is the wife of George I. Best, of Columbus Grove, and the latter the wife of John Core, also of Columbus Grove; Margaret is the wife of David T. McCullough, of Gilboa. John Norton married, secondly, Elizabeth Frost, to which union were born five children, Sarah, Joel, John W., Hiram and an infant daughter, all of whom are now deceased.

Few men in Putnam county have as wide an acquaintance as former Sheriff Burgess and his genial ways, kindness of heart and substantial manhood have endeared him to all who know him. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Ottawa and a member of the Masonic and Pythian fraternities, in the affairs of which organizations he takes an active interest. He has been a life-long Democrat and his voice is not without its weight in the councils of that party in this county. His various official positions have brought him in close touch with the public and have given him a thorough acquaintance with its needs, and he is always found in the front ranks of those who are laboring for the best interests of the commonwealth.

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### RUDOLPH NEWMAN.

In these days of hustle and bustle for fame and fortune among our native born sons and daughters, it is refreshing to thumb the pages in the career of a venerable citizen of Putnam county, Ohio, now living in his beautiful country home and past the age of ninety years. That Rudolph Newman, who was born nearly a century ago in a foreign land, has been able, with no other assistance than the help of a willing and faithful wife, to acquire a large fortune in farm property in his adopted country, is a tribute to his economy, his industry and his wise and prudent management. In many respects, his career resembles the pages gleaned from some old volume of romance, rather than a statement of fact in the life of a man who still lives to bear testimony of his work as a citizen in this splendid country.

Born in Mecklenburg, Germany, August 9, 1825, Rudolph Newman, a well-to-do retired farmer of Putnam county, Ohio, is now the only member living of his father's family. John and Fred, two brothers, are deceased. His father having died early in his youth, he had little chance to obtain an education, and, at the age of eleven years was compelled to leave home and

work for strangers, applying his earnings to the support of an invalid and widowed mother.

Married in Mecklenburg, Germany, at six o'clock in the evening of May 28, 1855, Rudolph Newman and his young bride, who, before her marriage was Elizabeth Genkel, born in Mecklenburg, Germany, November 8, 1824, sailed at midnight for America. The voyage to America constituted the honeymoon trip of this splendid German couple, who were very poor in purse, but who came to a new country to seek fame and fortune with good health and willing hands, as well as a determination that proved invincible. Steamships were by no means common in that day and the voyage, which was made on a sailing vessel and which was extremely perilous, required a period of eight weeks. Several severe storms were encountered during the voyage. Rudolph Newman and his bride had no relatives in the new country, but they were never beset with lonesomeness, for they were fond of each other and satisfied wholly with each other's companionship.

How Rudolph Newman and his young wife struggled from year to year, saving a little of each year's earnings, constitute a most interesting story. For a long time, however, all they had in money consisted of one copper penny, which they had saved and to which they added little by little, until it grew into a splendid fortune. Eventually, they were able to pay for five hundred and sixty acres of the best farming land to be found anywhere in Putnam county. The accumulation of this vast tract of land was the direct result of their own hard toil and frugality.

Landing in New York city, in the latter part of July, 1855, Rudolph Newman came direct to Arcadia, where he was employed for one hundred dollars a year. Out of this sum he was compelled to buy food for himself and wife. For nine years he continued in the employ of this man, and from his savings was able to purchase eighty acres of land, four miles east of McComb, to which farm he moved. Finding out, subsequently, that he could handle more land, he purchased the farm where he now lives, containing a hundred and sixty acres. There is little resemblance between the farm as it appeared then and as it appears now. Today it is one of the most attractive farms in Putnam county. Then it was little more than a vast forest, covered with trees on soil that was very wet. Excellent buildings are now standing on the farm; it is well drained, well fenced and well kept in every respect.

Rudolph Newman has given to each of his children a farm, and each is, therefore, provided with a home of his or her own. The Newman family consisted originally of six children, but two of them are now deceased. John Newman lived at home, working on the home farm and caring for his par-

ents until the time of his death; Minnie died in infancy; Mary Newman lives at home and is at present caring for her aged father; Mrs. Ricca Imhoff lives near Leipsic; Mrs. Lena Shafer lives in McComb; and the other child is Mrs. Sarah Beisheim, of Bellmore. The mother of these children died, May 22, 1910, and on June 1, 1912, John Newman, the only son and brother in the family, passed away. Rudolph Newman has lived on the farm he now occupies for more than forty-three years.

In youth Rudolph Newman was baptised and confirmed in the Lutheran faith, and remained a stanch Lutheran throughout his life. His wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Newman, during her life, was a devout member of that church. Rudolph Newman has always been a Democrat, but he has never been especially active in politics, devoting his life rather to the interests of his family and his home. It seems eminently fitting, therefore, that in his declining years he should have, as he does, the loving care and kindness of the daughter who lives with him. He has been a good citizen of this great country, and a man eminently worthy of the generation in which he has lived.

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### GEORGE RIDENOUR.

In the early days the Middle West was often a tempting field for the energetic, ambitious and strong-minded men. Ohio was filled with them during the time she was struggling to a respectable position in the sisterhood of states. Before Ohio was admitted to the Union in 1802, a comparatively small number of people had settled within the boundaries of this state. There was a fascination in the broad fields of great promise which this new region presented to activity of men and which induced them to brave the discomforts of early life here for the pleasure and gratification of constructing their fortunes in their own way and after their own methods. It is this class of men more than any other who give shape, direction and character to the life of any community. It is an axiom of history that it is the strong-willed and most energetic men who lead the van of the frontiersmen in any new and undeveloped country. George Ridenour, the subject of this sketch, and a farmer well known in Perry township, Putnam county, Ohio, is descended from old pioneer stock, men who have had much to do with the early history of Putnam county.

George Ridenour was born on October 27, 1860, in Perry township, Putnam county, across from the Blanchard river. He is the son of Jacob





GEORGE HILDESOTE AND FAMILY.



and Fanny (Fretz) Ridenour. Jacob Ridenour was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on March 2, 1815, and spent his boyhood days on the farm. He did not attend school until eighteen years of age. When the gold fever was abroad in 1851 he joined the caravan going west, and, traveling around the isthmus of Panama, finally reached California. Two years later he returned to Putnam county, where, on March 2, 1847, he had married Fanny Fretz, the daughter of John Fretz and wife, who was a Miss Shelby. Fanny Fretz was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, on August 27, 1825, and came to Putnam county with her parents when she was a small child. Her father was a native of Pennsylvania of Dutch parentage and settled in Putnam county in 1835 on a tract of land which he entered from the government. Jacob Ridenour's father was John Ridenour, of Pennsylvania Dutch parentage, who came to Fairfield county in the early twenties, and in 1826 to Putnam county, where he entered several tracts of government land, or in all about four hundred acres. He built a log cabin on the Blanchard river and began carving out a home in the wilderness. He entered forty acres of land where the town of Dupont now stands, and also a tract in Paulding county, Ohio. The children of John Ridenour were Michael, Jacob, Daniel, Elinor, Mary and Priscilla. Elinor married Dewitt McGill; Mary married Hugh Scott, and Priscilla married Rev. P. B. Holden.

Jacob Ridenour divided his land among his children before his death. He died in 1888, at the age of seventy-two years. Although he had been elected township treasurer at one time, he did not serve in this office. He was a Democrat in politics, and was not a member of any church.

Jacob and Fanny (Fretz) Ridenour were the parents of ten children: William, who died in infancy on October 11, 1849; Mrs. Jane Wollam, of Wichita, Kansas; John, who died in Perry township in 1914; Albert, who died on March 9, 1899; Mrs. Mary A. Bibler, who lives in Perry township on the homestead farm; Mrs. Elizabeth Marriott, who died on January 22, 1889, in Perry township; George, the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Emma Shirley, who lives in Monroe township; Orlando, who died in February, 1889, and Clara, who died at the age of sixteen years, in 1887.

George Ridenour grew to manhood in Perry township, and, with the exception of a few visits, has never been out of the township. He left home after his marriage and removed to his present farm of two hundred and sixty acres. This farm comprises several dicerent tracts. Mr. Ridenour is a general farmer and made all of the present improvements upon his land, including the buildings. He has also cleared most of the land.

George Ridenour was married on December 1, 1887, to Rona Simon, the daughter of Louis and Margaret (Dangler) Simon. Mrs. Ridenour was born on November 14, 1864, in Greensburg township, near Cuba. To this union two children, Lewis and Ottie, have been born, both of whom are living at home.

George Ridenour is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Continental, and is a Democrat. Mrs. Ridenour is a member of Mt. Zion Chapel, United Brethren church.

George Ridenour is one of the worthy citizens of Perry township. Although he has never been active in political affairs, he has been a leader in the civic, moral and educational movements of his township. Mr. Ridenour is a man who believes thoroughly in public movements and has been foremost in promoting them in his section of Putnam county. He is a man of splendid poise and a very fine sensibility. He is highly respected by his neighbors and admired by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

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#### MICHAEL F. DOBMEYER.

Success comes to the deserving. It is an axiom demonstrated by experience that a man gets out of his life just about what he puts into it, with a reasonable interest on his investment. The man who starts in the world largely unaided, and who, by sheer force of will, industrious habits and good management, forges ahead and takes a position of honor and trust and business responsibility among his neighbors and fellow citizens, is a man to be admired and honored. Michael F. Dobmeyer, a well-known hardware employe of Miller City, Ohio, is a man who has made a notable success in the business life of Palmer township. He belongs to that class of men who have contributed much to the bone and sinew of Putnam county, and added to the stability of government and its institutions generally.

Michael F. Dobmeyer was born on September 27, 1878, in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, one and one-fourth miles northeast of Miller City. He is a son of Frank and Barbara (Steinbauer) Bobmeyer.

The maternal grandparents of Michael Dobmeyer were natives of Bavaria, Germany, and lived and died in their native land. His paternal grandparents were natives also of Bavaria, Germany, who emigrated to America in the early days and settled first near Columbus, Ohio, where they remained for about three years. Later they came to Putnam county, Ohio,

and were among the pioneers of this section, later moving to North Dakota, where they died.

Frank Dobmeyer, the father of Michael F., was born in Bavaria, Germany, and grew to manhood in that country. After coming to America, he settled in Columbus, Ohio, where he remained for several years. He was married to Barbara Steinbauer, who was also a native of Bavaria, and who came to this country and located in Columbus, Ohio. She had come to America alone. After their marriage, they settled on a farm in Palmer township, in Putnam county, Ohio, which farm consisted of forty acres, and which had previously been purchased by Mr. Dobmeyer. Besides farming, he worked as a carpenter, which trade he had learned in his native land, and which he had followed to some extent in that country. His services in this line were in great demand in Putnam county, and he was considered a skilled workman. Prior to coming to Putnam county he worked as a car repairer, at Columbus, Ohio. He is now living retired in Miller City. He is a Democrat in politics and served as township supervisor. He and his family are members of St. Nicholas's Catholic church, at Miller City.

Of the children born to Frank and Barbara (Steinbauer) Dobmeyer, Frank lives at Oakland, California; John lives at Defiance, Ohio; Michael is the immediate subject of this sketch; Joseph is mayor of Miller City, and Mary died in infancy.

Michael F. Dobmeyer spent his boyhood days on his father's farm, remaining there until 1908. He received his education in the township schools. Michael F. Dobmeyer was married on May 31, 1905, to Emma Rehtine, who was born on September 26, 1887, in Ottawa township, south of Glandorf, the daughter of Anton and Mary (Kottenbrock) Rehtine.

After his marriage, Mr. Dobmeyer remained on his father's farm for three years, when he moved to Miller City, where he engaged in the retail liquor business for three years. He disposed of this business and served as marshal of Miller City for two years, and worked for the German-American Sugar Beet Company, of Paulding, Ohio. On June 15, 1914, Mr. Dobmeyer engaged in the hardware and implement business of Frank Giesken, as an employe, at Miller City, where he assists in the management of the business. This firm does an extensive business among the farmers of the surrounding community. At present Mr. Dobmeyer is in the restaurant business at Miller City, which is both increasing and prosperous.

Michael F. Dobmeyer and wife are the parents of four children, Cornelius, born on May 31, 1906; Clara, January 22, 1908; Raymond, June 1, 1911, and Arthur, September 16, 1913. Cornelius and Clara are attending school at Miller City.

Michael F. Dobmeyer is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America at Miller City. He and his family are earnest and devoted members of St. Nicholas's Catholic church. Mr. Dobmeyer is a Democrat, and has served as township supervisor and also as marshal. He still owns his farm of forty-seven acres in Palmer township, and is justly rated as one of the substantial and representative citizens of his part of the county.

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JOHN J. MILLER.

Among those men of high personal attainment and strength of character who have reflected honor on the community, and at the same time attained to a commendable position among their fellow men, is the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this paragraph, a man who, in every walk of life, has performed his full part, and who has given his unreserved support to every movement for the public welfare.

John J. Miller was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, on May 10, 1872, and is a son of Jacob W. and Catherine (Best) Miller. Jacob W. Miller was born near Piqua, Ohio, on September 19, 1831, a son of Jackson and Margaret (Teegarden) Miller. Jackson Miller and wife were both natives of Pennsylvania who emigrated early in pioneer days to Piqua, Ohio, where they were married, shortly after which time they moved to Putnam county, locating on what became a part of Sugar Creek township, Allen county, where they spent the remainder of their days. Jacob W. Miller was married to Catherine Best when he was twenty-seven years of age. To them were born the following children: William, deceased; George, Sarah, deceased; John J., Jane, Ann, Margaret, deceased; Mary and Allen.

John J. Miller was reared under the parental roof and secured his education in the old Michael district school. Upon leaving school he applied himself to the operation of the home farm, where he remained until thirty-one years of age, when he was married, and then located on forty acres of the southwest portion of the homestead farm, which has been his residence, continuously, since. He has made many permanent and substantial improvements on this place, including an eight-room residence, modern in every respect, a large and commodious barn and other necessary farm buildings. He has added ten acres to his home place, thus giving him an estate of fifty acres, and, in addition to this, he also farms forty acres adjoining him on

the west. He has followed a diversified system of farming, giving proper attention to the rotation of crops and other improved ideas relating to successful agriculture and also giving some attention to the raising of live stock, breeding Polled-Durham cattle, of which he has some splendid specimens of thoroughbred stock. The general appearance of the place indicates Mr. Miller to be a man of good taste and splendid ideas and creates a good impression upon the passers-by.

On January 11, 1903, John J. Miller was married to Ida M. Eastman, who was born on September 15, 1882, near Hamer, Jackson township, the daughter of Adolerous and Minerva (Cattels) Eastman. Adolerous Eastman was born in Madison county in 1846, and his wife was born in Paulding county, Ohio, in 1859, and died on July 30, 1887. Mr. Eastman was married three times, his first wife being Lucinda Jane Olliver. To this union were born five children, Arabelle, Elma, Clinton, Maleon, Lucinda. Mr. Eastman's second wife was Minerva Cattels, and to them were born four children, May, Ida, Ethel and Goldie, the latter dying when three years of age. Mr. Eastman's third wife was Mary McDonald, and to this union was born one child, Fred. Mrs. Miller spent her early life in Putnam county, and was about twenty years of age when she was married to Mr. Miller. To them have been born two children, Virgil Emerson, born on June 25, 1906; and Clarence Ivan, born on November 15, 1909.

The Eastmans come from an old family, records of which can be traced back to 1602, in Southampton, England. The first Eastman, landing in 1638, at Salisbury, Massachusetts, was born in Southampton, England, in 1611, and married Sarah Smith, who was born in 1621, and died on April 11, 1697, both of whom were members of the Salisbury church, where is recorded, in 1694, the name of the first of the Eastmans to come to this country. Roger Eastman had two brothers who emigrated with him. Both died without having married. Ida Eastman, wife of the subject of this sketch, was the daughter of Adolerous, who was the son of Aplor, who was the son of John, who was the son of Joseph, who was the son of Peter, who was the son of Joseph, who was the son of Roger, the first Eastman to reach this country. The Eastman genealogical tree today spreads over every part of the United States.

Mr. Miller has always taken a deep interest in public affairs and has been allied with the Democratic party, though too busy to give much personal attention to local politics. He attends the Christian church, of which Mrs. Miller is a member. In touching upon the life history of the subject of this sketch, the writer has aimed to avoid extravagant praise, yet it has

been a pleasure to hold up for consideration those facts which have shown the distinction of a true, useful and honorable life. A man of broad ideas, kindly purpose and human sympathy, Mr. Miller has won and retains a host of warm personal friends throughout this section of the state, where his life has been spent.

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#### ABRAHAM P. ASKINS.

One of the progressive farmers and highly respected citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, is Abraham P. Askins of Sugar Creek township. Possessing energy and determination, he has been very successful in making everything he undertakes result to his advantage. His success in his chosen calling is attested to by the fact that, having started in an humble way, he is now the owner of valuable real estate, and has accumulated this by his own personal efforts. In fact, Mr. Askins is one of the well-known and substantial citizens of this section of Putnam county, and is popular with a large number of people.

Abraham P. Askins was born on September 29, 1858, in the northwest part of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county. He is the son of Thomas and Rebecca (Funk) Askins.

Thomas Askins was born on January 2, 1810, in Frederick county, Virginia, and he was the son of Posey and Nancy (Barnes) Askins, both of whom were natives of Virginia. Posey Askins spent his early life in Virginia. He was a farmer by occupation, and enlisted in the War of 1812, but never saw service on account of the termination of the war. He came to Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1832, making the trip overland by wagon. Here he bought a farm east of Lancaster, and here he remained the rest of his life. He died in Lancaster at an advanced age.

Thomas Askins, who was one of a large family of children, was twenty-two years of age when he came to Ohio with his parents. He had received his early education in Virginia, where his childhood and youth were spent. After coming to Ohio, he remained with his parents in Fairfield county, helping his father on the old home place. Here he remained until after the death of his mother in 1852, when, at the age of forty-two, he came to Putnam county, where he was employed for about five years in Union and Jennings township, a part of the time for Hiram Sarber of former township. During his first five years, he purchased three tracts of land, one hundred and sixty acres in all, in Jennings township. At the age of forty-seven, in 1857, he was married to Rebecca Funk, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio,



February 13, 1825. She was the daughter of Abraham and Mary (Guile) Funk, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent. They came to Fairfield county from Pennsylvania in the early days, and in 1840, the year in which Henry Harrison was elected president, came to Putnam county, settling in Union township. Here they remained for the balance of their lives. Rebecca Funk was one of five children, two sons and three daughters, and was a young woman when she came to Putnam county. Here she remained until her marriage to Thomas Askins.

After his marriage, Thomas Askins located on eighty acres two miles northwest of Rimer, to which farm he afterward added twenty acres. This farm had but a few acres cleared. It had a two-room hewed log cabin and a log barn. Thomas Askins proceeded to clear his land and succeeded in getting this work about half finished before his death, which occurred on November 2, 1875. He was a hard-working and industrious man, of a strongly religious nature, and with Baptist sympathies. He was a man who enjoyed the respect of his fellow citizens. Politically, he was a Republican. His wife, Rebecca, survived him a good many years, dying at the old home place September 3, 1902. They were the parents of four children, two sons and two daughters. Abraham P., the eldest, is the subject of this sketch; William lives at Toledo, Ohio; Mary E. married Robert Blakely of Tiffin, Ohio, and Nancy married Alexander Cromley, of Tiffin.

Abraham P. Askins was born on the old homestead, which is his present residence. Here he spent his childhood and youth. He attended the old McLain district school, and after finishing the common schools, he continued to help his father on the old home place. It fell to the lot of Abraham P. Askins and his brother, William, to clear the remaining half of the farm. When Abraham P. was seventeen years of age his father died. With his brother, he assumed charge of the home place.

Abraham P. Askins was married on March 25, 1880, at the age of twenty-one years, to Martha Westenbarger, who was born on November 3, 1860, in Fairfield county, Ohio, and died on June 25, 1894. She was a daughter of John and Mary Ann (Derrickson) Westenbarger, both of whom were natives of Fairfield county, Ohio. The former was of Pennsylvania German parentage, and the latter was a native of Delaware.

After his marriage Mr. Askins rented a farm, one-half mile northeast of the home place, for two years, after which time he moved back to the home farm, which has been his place of residence ever since. After settling on the home place, Mr. Askins finished clearing and draining the farm, and built a beautiful eleven-room residence, and a large barn and

other outbuildings. He has one of the best-improved farms in Sugar Creek township. Mr. Askins has always done general farming, and has been very successful.

To Abraham P. and Martha (Westenbarger) Askins nine children have been born: Pearl is the wife of George Ream and resides at Sugar Grove, in Fairfield county, Ohio; James resides in Jennings township; Harry resides on the old home place. He married Stella Lothes, of Licking county, Ohio. She is the daughter of Jacob and Minerva (Pyles) Lothes, and was born in Noble county, Ohio, January 26, 1888. Jacob Lothes was a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and his wife of Maxburg, Noble county, Ohio. Harry Askins and wife have three children, Harold Vernon, May 29, 1910; Bernard, June 30, 1912; and an infant, December 20, 1914. Maude married Effenger Neeley, and resides at Missoula, Montana; Russell lives in Jennings township; Leona is the wife of Thomas Fairbanks, of Clarindon, Virginia; Myrtle is the wife of Anthony Klausing, of Delphos, Ohio; John lives in Jennings township; Sarah married Walter Blockberger and resides at Delphos, Van Wert county.

Abraham P. Askins is a Republican. He is one of Sugar Creek township's well-known and substantial citizens and farmers, and is well and favorably known in this and adjoining townships. He is a man of enviable reputation and deserves the esteem in which he is held by his neighbors.

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### JOHN T. MAAG.

The biographies of successful men are instructive as guides and incentive to those whose careers are yet to be achieved. The examples they furnish of patient purpose and consecutive endeavor, strongly illustrate what is in the power of each to accomplish. John T. Maag is a conspicuous example of one who has lived to good purpose and who has achieved a definite degree of success in the special sphere to which his talents and his energies have been devoted. Mr. Maag is a representative citizen of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, and one of its most successful farmers.

John T. Maag was born in 1864, in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of William and Bernadina (Kahle) Maag, the former a native of Cincinnati, born in 1838, and the son of Theodore Maag, who came from Germany.

William Maag was the only child born to his parents and he was prob-

ably only a year old when the family moved to Pleasant township and where his father, Theodore Maag, purchased land and lived the remainder of his life. William Maag married Bernadina Kahle, a native of Greensburg township and a sister of I. N. Kahle, whose sketch is found elsewhere in this volume gives the family history. After the marriage of William Maag, he farmed in Pleasant township. He began with eighty acres and purchased land until he owned three hundred and sixty-four acres. He was a successful man and was ably assisted by his son. His wife, Bernadina, was first married to Joseph Stechschulte, who died, leaving three children, Bernadina, Anna and Amelia. By her second marriage there were ten children who grew to maturity, Ignatius and Theresa dying after they were grown. The living children are, Mrs. Mary Schroeder, John C., Frank, William, Mrs. Bertha Scheckehoff, Mrs. Lena Fuerst, Joseph and Henry.

John T. Maag lived at home until his marriage, which took place on August 21, 1889, when he was married to Elizabeth Lammers, who was born in Ottawa township, near New Cleveland. She is the daughter of Henry and Gertrude (Siebeneck) Lammers. Henry Lammers was born in Germany and came to America when a young man. He came to Glandorf and there married Gertrude Siebeneck, who was born in Glandorf, and was the daughter of Bernard Henry and Gertrude (Inkrot) Siebeneck. Bernard Henry Siebeneck was born in Prussia and came to this country, about 1835, entering government land in Greensburg township. He remained in this country a year and then returned to Germany where he married Gertrude Gross Inkrot. They came here to live and spent the remainder of their lives in Greensburg township.

After Mr. Lammers was married, he began farming for himself at New Cleveland, where he purchased a farm and lived the remainder of his life. He owned two eighty-acre tracts of land and was the father of seven children, one of whom died in infancy. Henry died at the age of twenty-one years. The following are living: John, Mary, Anna, Gertrude and Elizabeth.

To John T. and Elizabeth (Lammers) Maag, eight children have been born, Amelia, who died at the age of ten years; Cornelius, who died at the age of four years; Urban, who died at the age of seven months; Mary, who died at the age of five months; Charles, August 24, 1890, who is twenty-four years of age and helps his father on the farm; Laura, January 23, 1893; Clara, March 6, 1897, and Cornelia, April 26, 1900, all of whom are at home.

After Mr. Maag was married, he began farming, three miles northwest of Leipsic, where he has lived since that time. He began with fifty-two acres, nearly all of which was covered with heavy woods and water. At this

time, there was a small shack in which the family lived and a straw-shed was the only stable. Mr. Maag cleared, drained and improved the land, built a large and comfortable house, a large barn and other outbuildings. He has purchased more land, from time to time, until he now owns over one hundred acres, worth about two hundred dollars an acre. The Maag family have been hard-working, prudent farmers and have prospered as a consequence of these habits.

John T. Maag and family are all members of the Catholic church and devoted to the welfare of this denomination.

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### JAMES A. IRWIN.

The flail of our fathers has given way to the threshing machine and the old-fashioned corn-cutter is laid on the shelf. Corn is now cut by machinery. The old-fashioned shucking-peg has given way to the modern corn-husker, and the farmer of today has all of the advantages which the inventive spirit of American industry has devised. The pioneer farmer is fast passing away and within the next few years they will be gone. James A. Irwin is one of the younger generation of farmers whose father, however, struggled against the privations and hardships of pioneer farm life during the early days of Putnam county's history. By adopting modern methods, James A. Irwin has come to be one of the foremost farmers and citizens of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio.

James A. Irwin was born on March 13, 1874, in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is a son of Benjamin F. and Lydia Jane (Hayden) Irwin. Benjamin F. Irwin was born on November 30, 1821, in Fairfield county, Ohio. He came to Putnam county in 1832 and was the son of Josiah Kennedy and Catherine (Barkman) Irwin. Benjamin F. Irwin's first wife, Sarah J. Leese, was born on April 26, 1836, and died on June 28, 1861. By this first marriage, there were four children: Herman L., born on June 16, 1855; Margaret A., September 5, 1857; Eva, August 1, 1859; and Sarah J., June 28, 1861. Benjamin F. Irwin was married the second time on March 28, 1864, to Lydia J. Hayden, who was born in Stark county, Ohio, May 7, 1839, and who was the daughter of Nathaniel and Eliza (Brothers) Hayden. To this second marriage, the following children were born: Martha Emma, on March 9, 1865; Clement L., July 26, 1866, died on September 19, 1866; George T., September 20, 1867; Benjamin F., Jr., August 25, 1869; Nathaniel K., January 20, 1871; James A., March 13, 1874,

and is the subject of this sketch; Charles P., December 9, 1876; Kemmer L., May 16, 1879; Guy, of Pleasant township. Benjamin F. Irwin had an uncle who served in the War of 1812.

After coming to Putnam county, Ohio, with his parents, who settled about three miles west of Columbus Grove, in Pleasant township, Benjamin F. Irwin grew to manhood on the old homestead of his parents. His father, Josiah Irwin, was one of the pioneer settlers and passed through all the experiences of the men of his day and generation. He lived to a ripe old age and died on the old homestead.

Of the children born to Benjamin F. Irwin's second marriage, Emma married George Barnt; George died at the age of twenty-nine; Benjamin F., Jr., and Nathaniel reside in Pleasant township; James A. is the subject of this sketch; Charles P. and Kemmere L. reside in Sugar Creek township; Guy resides in Pleasant township.

Benjamin F. Irwin was very successful in farming, as well as in raising horses and attributes a considerable of his success to this phase of his work. At one time he owned about six hundred acres of land in Pleasant and Sugar Creek townships. James A. Irwin spent his childhood and youth on the old home place in Pleasant township. He attended the old Turner district school and after finishing school, continued to help his father on the home place. After this he located on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, in the northeast part of Sugar Creek township. This farm belonged to his father. After the first year he farmed this place in partnership with his brother, Charles.

James A. Irwin was married, at the age of thirty, on September 7, 1904, to Rosa Caroline Miller, who was born in Allen county, January 28, 1875, and who was the daughter of Henry and Margaret (Sauer) Miller. Henry Miller was born on April 29, 1841, in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, and died on March 7, 1912, on the old Miller homestead in Allen county. Henry Miller came to America with his parents at the age of nine years and settled in Monroe township, Allen county. Here he lived the remainder of his life. He was the son of Michael and Catherine (Kunkleman) Miller, and one of four sons. The others were John, Christian and Adam. Mrs. Mary (Sauer) Miller was born in Prussia, on January 21, 1847, and was the daughter of Frantz and Catherine (Harmon) Sauer. She came to America when seven years of age with her parents who settled first in Pickaway county, Ohio, and a few years later moved to Monroe township, Allen county. Here Frantz Sauer remained the rest of his life, dying in June, 1904, at the age of seventy-four years. His wife, Catherine, still survives

and lives with her daughter, Mrs. Minerva Holmes, at Loomis, Michigan. Frantz and Catherine Sauer had three children, Mary, Louisa and Minerva, all of whom are living. Henry and Mary Miller had fourteen children, all of whom are living and all of whom are married except three. They are as follow: Margaret, John, Emma, Anna, Alice, Sarah, Caroline (the wife of Mr. Irwin), Bertha, William Harmon, Louis, Clara, Grace and Arthur.

After Mr. Irwin's marriage, he took up his residence on the west half of the one hundred and twenty acres he had previously farmed, and here he has erected a commodious residence of six rooms. Prior to his marriage he also had built a barn, thirty-six by fifty feet. Since that time he has added other buildings. He has always done general farming and paid especial attention to corn and hogs. In addition to his home place of sixty acres, he farms forty acres with his brother, Charles.

James A. and Rose Caroline (Miller) Irwin have five children, Mildred, born on May 30, 1905; Lenore, April 21, 1907; Marie, July 20, 1909; Bryce, December 30, 1911, and Miller Vern, May 14, 1915.

James A. Irwin and family attend the Christian church at Columbus Grove. Mr. Irwin is a Democrat. He is one of Sugar Creek township's substantial farmers, highly respected in his community, and honored for his industry, good management and genial disposition.

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### JOHN MAIDLOW.

"In Memoriam!" No two words in the English language combine in more meaningful phrase than these. How much of respectful consideration, how much of tender devotion and how much of sincere regard for the memory of one who has gone on before, is implied in the use of the term with which this paragraph is introduced. In a monumental work of the character contemplated by the compilers of this extraordinary volume it seems eminently fitting that there should here and there throughout these pages be presented for the consideration not only of the present generation of readers, but for those who perchance shall have occasion to review these pages in generations yet to come, a brief and modest summary of the lives of those departed fathers of the commonwealth who long since have passed from the scenes of present activity. In following this design, the biographer

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surely would be remiss in his duty to the people of Putnam county if this book were permitted to go forth without an epitome of the life and of the works of the gentleman whose name heads this particular chapter of the biographical section of this history of the county, a name which has the power to recall many pleasant memories on the part of those now surviving, who, in his day here, knew so well and respected so highly the subject of this respectful memoir.

John Maidlow, late deceased, in his time one of the best known and most influential farmers of Putnam county, Ohio, for many years a resident of Blanchard township, this county, where his death occurred on December 6, 1889, was born in England on February 11, 1812, and he came to America with his parents in the year 1820, when he was eight years of age. By reason of John Maidlow's tender age, at the time he arrived in this country, he truly might be said to have been an American in all save birth and it certainly is the truth that no native-born American ever loved the country more or took a greater interest in its development.

At the age of thirteen, John Maidlow moved to Knox county, Ohio, where he grew to vigorous manhood, acquiring, with a sturdy body, such education as the local schools of that period afforded and laying the foundation for an after life of much usefulness to his fellow men. On February 18, 1834, Mr. Maidlow was united in marriage to Miss Lucinda A. Douds, who was born in Knox county, Ohio, on February 17, 1816, the marriage taking place at the home of the bride's parents, three miles north of Mt. Vernon. Three years later, on March 4, 1837, to be exact, Mr. Maidlow and his wife came to Putnam county, Ohio, and settled in Blanchard township, Where they spent the remainder of their lives, his death occurring on December 6, 1889, and hers on August 18, 1897. On this old home place, this honored couple lived to celebrate their "golden" wedding anniversary, February 18, 1884, on which happy occasion a very large party of friends and relatives was present, among these being twelve children, forty grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

To John and Lucinda A. (Douds) Maidlow were born the following children: James A., who married Mary Ann Buckland; Elizabeth Sophia, who married N. C. Conine; Ann, who married D. E. Sandles; C. Edmund, who married Belle Kline, now deceased; Chloe Rogers, deceased; William Franklin, who married Miranda Conine, now deceased; Rebecca Jane, who married E. H. Buckland; Agnes Padwick, who married Thomas Walford, now deceased; Alice, who married R. L. Brooks; Laura, who married George

Huntsman; Martha Maria, who married Herman McDougle; Alfred Spencer, who married Emma Carpenter, and Putnam, who married Mary Cartwright.

John Maidlow was an extensive and successful farmer and his lands were among the most highly cultivated of any in the county of Putnam. He was a man of more than ordinary intelligence and was widely informed on all matters pertaining to the general interests of his adopted country. He was a wide reader, not only of the newspapers, which kept him informed on current events, but of books, in the reading of which he had a very fine and discriminating taste. He was a pioneer in the matter of better highways, having been one of the most efficient leaders in the movement for gravel roads in the county, as well as being one of the earliest and most persistent advocates of the necessity for a thorough and comprehensive system of drainage of lands, preaching in season and out of season the very high utility of such public improvements. If for no other reason than for the stimulating effect of his advocacy of these vital improvements, Putnam county owes very much to the memory of John Maidlow. In his personal relations with his fellow men, Mr. Maidlow was a man of generous impulses and of scrupulous honesty, and in the neighborhood in which he lived so many years and in which he was so strong a factor for good, these lovely human traits in him are not forgotten to this day. In his good works, he ever was ably abetted by his good wife, whose memory also is held in the highest regard even to this day, in that neighborhood.

John Maidlow was active in the public affairs of Putnam county, his voice always being raised in behalf of such measures as seemed to him best fitted to advance the common weal. Despite the fact, however, of his continued and active participation in the political campaigns of his party—he was ever an earnest and consistent Democrat,—Mr. Maidlow persistently declined to accept nominations to public office, though his party frequently honored him by pressing upon him the desirability of his acceptance of such nominations. He did serve his party in 1868, however, by going as one of the delegates from the tenth congressional district of Ohio to the national convention of the Democratic party, in session that year in New York city.

John Maidlow was a Mason and took an earnest part in the affairs of that popular ritualistic order in this county. In all the relations of life, he stood four-square with the world and his memory will not soon be permitted to perish in this county, whose best concerns he served so well and so faithfully during his long and useful life.



## BERNARD I. STECHSCHULTE.

Mental and physical activity go hand in hand with material success in life. The success of individuals generally means the success and prosperity of the community. The community honors its most active men by entrusting to them the responsibilities demanding careful and wise attention, and one of the most important positions is that of school trustee, and it is with great pride that we may mention here the work of Bernard I. Stechschulte, now president of the board of trustees of Liberty township.

Bernard I. Stechschulte, the son of Henry and Bertha (Kahle) Stechschulte, was born in Ottawa township, near Glandorf, Ohio, in Putnam county. The sketch of August Stechschulte, found elsewhere in this volume, gives in details the family history.

Bernard I. Stechschulte was married at the age of twenty-six years to Thersia Morman. She was born in Greensburg township, about four miles west of Ottawa, and is a daughter of John and Gertrude (Verhoff) Morman. John Morman was born in Hanover, Germany, and is a farmer of Greensburg township, in this county. His wife, Gertrude Verhoff, was born one mile west of Glandorf, the daughter of Frank and Mary Verhoff. Mrs. Stechschulte was reared on his father's farm in Greensburg township.

After his marriage, Mr. Stechschulte farmed one year in Van Buren township on rented land, after which he bought sixty acres near Elm Center, in Liberty township, and has lived there since that time. He is now the owner of one hundred and ninety-six acres of fine farming land, having gradually added to his original purchase as his prosperity increased.

The farm premises of Mr. Stechschulte are neat and attractive, with good buildings and modern equipment. He has recently engaged in the horse-breeding business and keeps a full-blooded Percheron stallion which is registered by the American Percheron Association and is of splendid pedigree.

Bernard I. and Theresia (Morman) Stechschulte are the parents of four sons and three daughters, all of whom are living, while one child died in infancy. These children are as follow: Agatha, the wife of Albert Karhoff, who lives in Ottawa township; Amelia; Lawrence; John; Gertrude; Bernard and Frank.

Bernard I. Stechschulte is a Democrat, and is now serving as trustee of Liberty township. He has served in other important official positions, such as a member of the school board, and is now serving his third year as.

trustee and is president of the trustees of Liberty township. In all of his official duties, Mr. Stechschulte has discharged his duties to the entire satisfaction of the people to whom he is responsible.

Bernard I. Stechschulte and family are all devout members of the St. Nicholas's Catholic church at Miller City. He is a genial, active and popular man in the community where he lives.

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### JOHN M. CARDER.

The rich agricultural section comprised within the bounds of Putnam county, Ohio, is replete with pleasant homes, housing a happy and contented people. No spot in the great state of Ohio is more favored in this regard than is the county with which this volume particularly treats, and in this county there are few spots more highly favored than is that section comprised within the borders of Perry township and the picturesque country surrounding the pleasant town of Continental. Among the farmers in that township there are few who are better known than is John M. Carder, to a brief and modest biography of whom the reviewer here engages the attention of the reader.

John M. Carder was born in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, on December 1, 1862, the son of John and Arminta (Baer) Carder, the former of whom was a native of Putnam county, who died in 1903, at the age of sixty-seven years, and the latter of whom also was a native of Putnam county, born near Ottawa, and who died in 1882 at the age of forty-seven years.

John Carder was reared upon the parental farm in Union township, this county, and farmed there for some time after reaching manhood, and then moved to Perry township, where he spent the rest of his life. At the time of his death, the older John Carder owned forty acres of land in Union township and sixty acres in Perry township. He was a man of considerable substance and was a good citizen in all the name implies. For many years he was a member of the township school board and the influence of his sound judgment and deep interest in educational affairs ever was exerted in behalf of the schools of the township, his work in that connection being an imperishable monument to his memory in that neighborhood. He was an earnest member of the Dunkard church and frequently occupied the local pulpit of that organization, his sermons being noted for their deep devotional character and their earnest expression of faith. He was a Democrat and his



JOHN M. CARDER AND FAMILY.



voice ever was lifted on behalf of good government, his influence in the counsels of his party in that part of the county having no small weight.

John Carder was united in marriage to Arminta Baer, a member of an old family in Union township, whose parents came from Stark county to Putnam county at an early day and settled near Ottawa, where they engaged in farming, and where they spent the rest of their lives, being among the honored and influential residents of that section of the county. To John and Arminta (Baer) Carder were born three children: Mrs. Martha Prowant, who also lives in Perry township; John M., with whom this review treats, and Harvey, who died in 1884.

John M. Carder was reared on the parental farm in Union township, his early schooling being obtained in the district schools of that township. He was about fourteen years of age when his parents moved to Perry township, and he remained at home until after the death of his mother in 1882, when he started out for himself, working by the month until his marriage, in 1886, at which time he settled on a farm of forty acres and cleared off a space in the woods upon which to erect a house, and here he lived for more than ten years, moving to his present farm in Perry township in the year 1899, at which time he bought two hundred acres, only forty acres of which was cleared, the remainder being in timber. He had learned the secret of hard work while clearing his former and smaller farm, and he set to work with diligence to clear and improve his forest farm. In this he has been successful and his fine, well-ditched and well-fenced farm today carries but eighteen acres of woodland, the remainder being in an excellent state of cultivation. He reduced the size of his farm by the sale of forty acres from his tract of two hundred acres, and now has one hundred and sixty acres, one of the best farms in that part of the county, containing a fine dwelling, a commodious barn, silo and other essential outbuildings. In addition to general farming, Mr. Carder also engages extensively in stock raising and has something more than a local reputation as a breeder of fine thoroughbred Jersey cattle. He started this herd in 1910, and since then has exhibited at the Ottawa fair and has made many sales of Jerseys in the neighboring counties of Defiance and Paulding, as well as in this county. He also has given much attention to the breeding of Duroc-Jersey hogs and his sales of full-blooded stock in this line have proved quite profitable.

On November 25, 1886, John M. Carder was united in marriage to Mary Troyer, who was born in Perry township, Putnam county, Ohio, on July 24, 1863, the daughter of Levi and Eliza (Dickey) Troyer, and to this

union six children have been born, Clyde, Blanche, May, Alta, Henry and Ralph, all of whom are at home and who make merry around the fireside of their devoted parents.

John M. Carder and wife are members of the Zion's Chapel United Brethren church, in which faith they have reared their children, and they are active in all the good works of the community. Mr. Carder is a Democrat and is one of the influential men in his vicinity in that party. He gives the most earnest attention to all matters relating to local government, and for the past three terms has served as trustee of the township, in which capacity his work on behalf of the schools has done very much to raise the educational standards of that township. For five years previously he had served as a member of the township school board. He has been township committeeman for his party for some time and is recognized as among the political leaders in the county. He is a fine, congenial man, a good farmer and an excellent judge of stock. He is well liked and popular among all his acquaintances.

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#### HON. ALFRED PUTNAM SANDLES.

Human life is like the waves of the sea. They flash a few brief moments in the sunlight, marvels of power and beauty and then are dashed upon the remorseless shores. Nevertheless, the lives of enterprising men, especially of good men, are instructive as guides and incentives to others. The examples they furnish, of steadfast purpose and inflexible integrity, strongly illustrate what it is possible to accomplish in the world. Some men belong to no exclusive class in life. Apparently insurmountable obstacles have, in many instances, awakened and developed their faculties and served as a stimulant to carry them to ultimate success, and Hon. Alfred Putnam Sandles has lived to good purpose and has achieved a much greater degree of success than falls to the lot of the ordinary individual. By a straightforward and commendable course he has made his way upward to a position of unique prominence. By his own efforts he has won the esteem and hearty admiration of his fellow citizens, and has justly deserved the honors which the public has graciously bestowed upon him.

Hon. Alfred Putnam Sandles, president of the agricultural commission of Ohio, was born in a log house in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, on February 5, 1871. As the biographical annals of Ohio set forth, "He was born in a log house near the Putnam county poor house, in 1871,

farm product, home-grown and hand-spanked." Mr. Sandles is a son of David Ephraim and Ann (Maidlow) Sandles, the former of whom was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, and moved to Licking county, where he grew to maturity. At the age of sixteen or seventeen, he enlisted in Company D, First Ohio Cavalry, and served until the close of the Civil War. Before the age of twenty years, he voted for Lincoln. David E. Sandles was attached to the Army of the Cumberland. After the close of the war, he came to Blanchard township, Putnam county, and engaged in farming. Here he was married to Ann Maidlow, who was born in Blanchard township, near the county infirmary, and who was a daughter of John and Lucinda (Douds) Maidlow, who are referred to elsewhere in this volume. David E. Sandles and wife remained on the farm until well advanced in years, when they moved to Ottawa, where they now live.

Hon. Alfred Putnam Sandles spent his boyhood days on the farm. He attended Crawfis College, the Normal School at Leipsic, and Otterbein University, at Westerville, Ohio. He began teaching at the age of twenty-one years, and taught two years in Blanchard township, one year in Riley township, and six years in the schools of Ottawa. While in the latter position he served two years as president of the Putnam county teachers' institute. During his first year, as president, he started the custom of devoting one day of institute week to parents' and directors' meetings. It proved a great success and spread over Ohio, and is continued to this day. During this period. Mr. Sandles's services were often in demand as a lecturer on educational topics.

In the early nineties, Mr. Sandles evinced an active interest in politics. He was an ardent Democrat and, in 1896, was made chairman of the Putnam county Democratic convention. In 1900 and 1903 he was elected clerk of the county courts of Putnam county, and in 1901 was elected chairman of the county executive committee. He was re-elected every campaign for twelve years. He was also elected a member of the Democratic state executive committee in 1902, and became secretary and treasurer of the committee, and practically managed the campaign. In 1903 and 1904 he was a member of the state central committee. So well and widely known over Ohio had Mr. Sandles become by 1904, as an enthusiastic party worker and organizer, that he was practically unanimously nominated by the Democrats as their standard-bearer for secretary of state, his name heading the ticket. That was the Roosevelt landslide year, and, of course, he was defeated with the rest of the ticket, but he had the satisfaction of running ahead of Judge Parker in this state by several thousand votes. When the late Governor Pat-

terson was nominated in 1905, Mr. Sandles was, at Governor Patterson's request, made a member of the committee on resolutions, and as a member of the sub-committee, helped draft the famous platform which contributed so much to the success of the ticket. The platform was virtually the same as his principal campaign speech of the previous year. In the following January he was elected clerk of the Ohio Senate, and served three years.

Mr. Sandles' interest in agriculture seems to have run in parallel channels with his interest in education and politics. In January, 1895, he was elected secretary of the Putnam County Agricultural Society, and has served, continuously, ever since. He organized what was known as the Ohio Fair Managers' Association in 1897, and this association now includes every county in Ohio. Through its influence, several important laws have been enacted. He also conceived the idea of closer co-operation between fair and schools, and of paying premiums on "brains" as well as on "bulls." To encourage educational and school exhibits at county fairs, premiums were offered, and the idea has grown more and more popular, and has been taken up by some forty other counties in the state, and also by the State Fair Association. The premiums consist chiefly of books, and today aggregate over twenty-six thousand volumes. Practically every school in Putnam county has at least a small library because of this feature of the county fair. This practice has had a good influence on the schools, for it presents each school on a competitive basis. For many years Putnam county had more Boxwell graduates than any other county because of the interest this competition has aroused.

Hon. Alfred P. Sandles has been president of the Ohio Race Circuit, embracing fifty-seven counties, and in 1908, was elected to the board of review of the National Trotting Association, which is the supreme court of the trotting world. He was elected a member of the state board of agriculture in 1892, and in 1906 was president of the board, and in 1907 was re-elected a member. In January, 1909, he resigned to become secretary of the board, holding this position until August 6, 1913, when the new law created the agricultural commission of Ohio. He was appointed for a six-year term as a member of the commission, consisting of four active members. When the commission met and organized, Mr. Sandles was elected its president, and still holds this position. His work in promoting the agricultural interests of Ohio has been truly wonderful, and has won for him a national reputation. Space is too limited to give more than a meager outline of his work. His position on the Putnam county agricultural board gave him years of practical experience from his youth, so that from early life he



has developed as an older man could not have done. Many of the plans instituted by him in Putnam county have been tried out, and after having proved successful, have been taken up in the larger field of the state. Under his leadership, orchard demonstrations, which eventually have led to the rejuvenation of thousands of acres of apple orchards and present enormous profit in fruit lands. The free pass nuisance and graft were eliminated in connection with the state fairs. The state board of agriculture has been taken out of politics and made bi-partisan. The people are employed because of merit and fitness. Agricultural trains and demonstration cars are run over railroads for the betterment of the people, and the railroad companies were induced to give service free. The frauds and scandals in regard to farm fertilizers were brought to a close by turning on them the calcium light of publicity, publishing in the monthly reports issued by the state board of agriculture the chemical analyses of fertilizers, and posting in a "Danger" column the analysis of those fertilizers which fell below the standard of their published guarantee. This feature grew in importance, and later, Mr. Sandles had a bill passed by the Legislature that eliminated all of the fraudulent features of the business and put it on an honest basis, so that farmers may now know what they are buying.

Against much opposition, Mr. Sandles got the bill passed while he was clerk of the senate, and his position helped him to steer the bill past all the reefs and rocks of the tortuous channel of legislation. His fight in this contest alone would make a story of rare interest. At his suggestion, night exhibitions were successfully inaugurated at the state fair. The live stock interests of the state and sanitary conditions have been given attention, and liberal appropriations have been made. The manufacture of hog cholera serum was virtually instituted by the state at his suggestion and a plant erected for this purpose.

Attendances at farmers' institutes have doubled, and the work is now made practical and helpful. Extension courses have been established and laws were enacted permitting county experiment farms to be established. Laws were also passed requiring agriculture to be taught in the public schools and over two hundred thousand pupils in Ohio are now studying scientific agriculture. Agricultural colleges attendance has more than doubled in Ohio during this period.

Alfred P. Sandles also conceived and put into operation the idea of giving boys from each county a free trip to the Ohio state fair. He has developed this idea to a marvelous degree. He promoted the corn-growing contest for the boys, the first contest being held in 1912. Free trips to

Washington were offered to boys growing the most corn on a single acre of ground. Five hundred and ten boys of an average age of sixteen years raised an average of eighty-five bushels of corn to the acre in 1912, while the state average for men was only thirty-five bushels. Hundreds of boys were taken on the trip to Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Washington, D. C., and Mount Vernon.

The girls were also encouraged and had contests in baking, canning, apple growing and lawn gardening. Mr. Sandles was able to generate a wide and deep sentiment and enthusiasm for his work. The commercial clubs, the banks, the grain dealers' associations, have all contributed. One thousand and sixty-eight persons in 1914 went on the trip east, with two boys' bands and a girls' band to furnish music. They made the trip on special trains to Washington, where they shook hands with President Wilson and wife, and later had a big time in Philadelphia and New York city, where their coming aroused tremendous enthusiasm and was featured by the newspapers far and near. Great banquets at the Waldorf-Astoria and other places, a ride up the Hudson and out past Ellis Island to the ocean as guests of New York city, and an address by the mayor and others, combined to make the affairs memorable. The boys' badges read, "The rainbow comes down in Ohio," the idea being that they would get the gold at the foot of the rainbow by working in the soil. The girls' badges read, "Buckeye Anti-Divorce League," meaning that good home-keepers make happy homes. All this was done at a cost of about one hundred thousand dollars, but was worth all it cost and more, not merely for the good time these people had, but because it gets the people to thinking, planning and striving to achieve and to excel in that noble calling that is at the foundation of all industry, producing direct from the soil.

Alfred P. Sandles has shown ability as an organizer. He knows how to touch the various chords of human interest, to bring out the enthusiasm and publicity, and withal to put it on a solid basis where the results are permanent and valuable. He is a man of tireless energy, working regularly until near midnight, as well as busy all day, yet he is not too busy to be courteous and friendly, and is every inch a man.

On May 27, 1894, Hon. Alfred Putnam Sandles was married to Laura Moffit, who was born on September 6, 1874, on a farm in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, a daughter of Joab and Amanda (Hopkins) Moffit, who were born and reared in Hancock county, Ohio, and who lived many years in Blanchard township, in this county. They moved to Findlay, Ohio, in 1902, where Mr. Moffit died in July, 1914.

Alfred P. and Laura (Moffit) Sandles are the parents of one son and seven daughters, Bryan Putnam, Frances, Beatrice, Martha, Dorotha, Helen, Catharine and Eleanor.

Alfred P. Sandles is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and was master of the Ottawa lodge for four years. He is a member of the Knights Templar at Lima and also of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at Toledo. He also belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Findlay, Governor Dennison Camp, Sons of Veterans, and the Grange. Mr. Sandles has been a member of the Ottawa school board for some time.

Alfred P. Sandles has a rare sense of humor. He helped to institute the famous Crow banquets, which are held at Ottawa following elections, and is attended by many of the most prominent men of Ohio. It is a humorous celebration, participated in by victors and vanquished at the expense of the losing party, certain persons in one party having been paired with certain persons in another party before the election.

With all his other occupations, Mr. Sandles prefers to call himself an editor. He is the editor of the *Putnam County Sentinel*, and has filled this position since 1908, although he was connected with the paper for several years previous to that time.

Alfred Putnam Sandles is a kind and indulgent father, devoted not less to his family than to his country, his state and the county he calls his home.

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## HENRY KNUEVEN.

It has been a comparatively short time since Putnam county, Ohio, was a dense wilderness. Today there are fine farms where heavy timber once sheltered wild deer, and beautiful homes where a mass of thick underbrush covered fertile ground a few years ago. Among the brave men who struggled for their homes and living and have succeeded in a great measure, is Henry Knueven, who was born in this county and has made it his home all his life.

Henry Knueven, the son of Barney and Mary (Hueve) Knueven, was born on March 5, 1856, at Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. Barney Knueven was a native of Glandorf, Hanover, Germany, and came to America when fifteen years of age. He located first in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he worked in a brick yard. He worked here until his marriage, after which he

removed to Glandorf and purchased a farm, and here he lived the remainder of his life.

Henry Knueven grew to manhood on his father's farm near Glandorf, and received his education in the schools of his home neighborhood. On September 4, 1880, he was married to Catherine Ellerbrock, the daughter of Theodore and Anna (Ricker) Ellerbrock. She is a native of this county.

Theodore Ellerbrock was born in Germany on October 4, 1830, and came to America with his parents when about eight years old. The family located on a farm near Glandorf, where his parents developed a farm out of the wilderness, and here they spent the remainder of their lives. Anna Ricker was born near Glandorf about 1872. Theodore Ellerbrock and family moved to Liberty township, near where the Nickel Plate railroad now runs, about three miles west of Leipsic. They bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, of which only a very small part had ever been cultivated. Two of the boys saw deer in the woods feeding with their cattle, which ran in fear of the animals with the big horns. Mr. Ellerbrock gradually improved his land, adding more acreage to his holdings, and later in life, gave each of his five sons a farm. Theodore Ellerbrock and wife were the parents of the following children: Barney, Kate, William, Ferdinand, Henry, Mary and Theodore J. The father died on September 3, 1908, and the mother died on September 13, 1909.

Henry Knueven's father presented him with eighty acres of land in the south part of Liberty township, about two years before his marriage. This land cost about ten dollars an acre, and when Mr. Knueven moved to this farm, it had only a shanty on it and a round log barn, in the way of improvements. The land was covered with timber and the soil was very swampy, but with unceasing industry Mr. Knueven gradually improved the land, draining the soil, and clearing off the heavy timber until he now has a splendid farm where once there was a wilderness, and has added ninety acres more to the place. He has built a splendid new house and a good barn and other outbuildings, necessary in the perfect equipment of an up-to-date farm.

To Henry and Catherine (Ellerbrock) Knueven five children have been born, of whom one daughter, Bertha, died when two years of age. The four living children are: Bernard, Emma, Minnie and Lawrence. Bernard makes his home with his father; Emma is the wife of Jacob Backies, and lives at Milan, Michigan; Minnie is the wife of John Schmenk, and lives three miles north of Mr. Knueven, and they have three children, Arthur, Jacob and Catherine; Lawrence married Maggie Rump, and lives on a farm five miles north of Miller City. He has one daughter, Isabelle.

Henry Knueven is a member of the Democratic party, but has never taken a very active interest in political matters, preferring rather to devote his entire time and attention to his farming interests. The family are all devout members of the Catholic church. Mr. Knueven is interested in the common welfare of his community, and takes an active part in all questions concerning the good of his fellow citizens.

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#### FRANK H. MORMAN.

The pioneers of Putnam county, Ohio, suffered innumerable hardships. Some of the most prosperous farmers and some of the earliest pioneers are of German descent and their success is due to their untiring energy and perseverance. Wherever Germans locate, they prosper and become valuable citizens.

One of the prosperous citizens of Liberty township, Putnam county, is Frank H. Morman, who came from good German stock. He was born in 1852, in Glandorf, Putnam county, the son of Henry and Elizabeth (Osterfeld) Morman. His father was born in Osnabruck, Hanover, Germany, and at the age of twelve years came to America with his parents, Anthony and Dorothea (Treme) Morman.

They came very soon after Professor Horstman and his company settled in Glandorf. Henry Morman lived in Cincinnati until manhood and was living there when he married Elizabeth Osterfeld. His brothers came to Putnam county, Ohio, and worked at digging on the old canal. Henry Morman was a cook in a Cincinnati hotel. His wife, Elizabeth Osterfeld, was born in Germany, the daughter of George Osterfeld and wife, who came from Oldenburg, Germany, and who lived on a farm at Minster, Ohio. Henry Morman moved to Glandorf, after his marriage, and engaged in the general mercantile business, two or three years, until his death. His wife died six months later and Frank H. Morman, left an orphan one year old, was reared by his father's parents in Greensburg township. When the boy was twelve years of age, his grandparents moved to Glandorf and Frank H. worked out until about twenty-five years old.

He traded about seventeen acres, at Glandorf, for one hundred and sixty acres, in Liberty township, northeast of Elm Center, in 1875. He worked out four years more and then moved to his farm in 1879, which consisted of heavy timber with no improvements. The place was almost

impassable on account of the heavy timber, the brush and the water. He cleared it, ditched it and has over one hundred and forty acres under cultivation and well improved, with good houses, barns and other buildings. Mr. Morman was one of the first settlers in his community. He started in an humble way and has made good.

He was married in 1882 to Catherine Borer. She was born at New Cleveland, in Ottawa township, and is the daughter of Joseph and Bridgetta (Hudinger) Borer. Joseph Borer was born in Switzerland and came to America at the age of twelve with his parents, who settled near Glandorf, where Joseph Borer grew up and married. His first wife died while Mrs. Morman was a little girl and he married again. He was both a farmer and a carpenter.

Frank H. and Catherine (Borer) Morman have five children, four living and one dead, Joseph, Rosa, Gertrude, Caroline and Mary. Joseph married Gertrude Schmenk and lives on a farm two miles north of his father. He has three children, Edmond, Adolph and Mildred; Rosa died at the age of six; Gertrude is the wife of Valentine Schmenk and lives in the southern part of Liberty township; Caroline, the wife of Louis Lammers, lives about two miles north of Elm Center and has three children, Helen, Catherine and Alice. Mary is still single and is at home.

Frank H. Morman is a member of the Democratic party. He and his family are members of the Catholic church at Miller City. They are among the most highly respected citizens of the vicinity where they live and are interested in all questions concerning the common good of the community.

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### JOHN W. HOHENBRINK.

When we behold the large fertile farms in Putnam county, Ohio, and the splendid homes there, it is hard to believe that these tracts of land were once mere marshes of stagnant water and underbrush and that the splendid homes have replaced log cabins and shacks. When we of the present generation complain of our labor and our struggles, it is well to remember the hardships of our pioneer fathers. Thus we are enabled to appreciate what they have accomplished and under what great hardships success has been attained. Many men have contributed to make Putnam county, Ohio, a garden spot, and one of these men is John William Hohenbrink, of Liberty township.

John W. Hohenbrink was born on March 31, 1860, at Glandorf, Putnam county, the son of Matthias and Kate (Halker) Hohenbrink. Matthias Hohenbrink was born in Glandorf, Germany, and lived there until he was twenty-two years of age, when he came to Putnam county. After working out for a year, he bought a farm of eighty acres of heavily timbered land, one and one-half miles northwest of Ottawa. There he established his home, made out of it a fertile farm and lived there all of his life. His first wife was Kate Halker, a daughter of William Halker, a native of Germany and an early settler of Putnam county. She died when John W. was a week old. After her death, Matthias Hohenbrink married Theresia Huester, who still lives on the old home farm near Glandorf. Matthias Hohenbrink died on July 20, 1894.

John W. Hohenbrink lived at home until he was married, on September 15, 1885, to Mary Koenig. She was born in Liberty township, one-half mile north of the Nickel Plate railroad, the daughter of Charles and Theresia (Roderer) Koenig. Charles Koenig was born in Prussia and grew up there. He was a soldier in the Prussian army before he came to America, after which he married Theresia Roderer, a native of Rheinpfalz. After living two years in Dayton, they moved to Putnam county, about 1850. He bought two eighty-acre tracts in Liberty township, all wild land, timber and swamps, a part of the famous Black swamp. For many years after, they were troubled with frequent high water which ruined the crops. The taxes at first on eighty acres was only two dollars and the good wife paid that from selling butter and eggs. Timber was valueless and it was necessary to burn it to get it out of the way. Here Charles Koenig and wife lived and reared their six children, and here they died, the father on January 25, 1895, and the mother on March 17, 1903.

After Mr. Hohenbrink's marriage, he cultivated his father's farm for two years and then moved a mile north of his present home, in Liberty township, and bought forty acres. He lived there for about four years and then moved to the old Koenig farm, where he has lived ever since. When he moved to the Koenig farm, only two fields were drained, but since that time he has drained all the land, built a good brick house, a large barn, with tile roof, and now has a farm which produces remarkable crops.

John W. and Mary (Koenig) Hohenbrink have eight children, William John, Mary Theresa Theodora, Edward John, Louis John, Mary Emma Frances, Martha Anna Philomena, Hilda Regina Marghereta and Edna Rosa Marguerite. William married Anna Brown and lives on a farm in Henry county. They have two children, Edmund John and Mary Agnes; Theodora

is the wife of John Niese and lives two and one-half miles northeast of her parents. She has one daughter, Leona Mary Elizabeth.

John W. Hohenbrink is a member of the Democratic party. He and his family are members of the Catholic church at Miller City and are prominent in all affairs of the community.

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### PETER J. MANGUS.

For more than thirty years, Peter J. Mangus has been a resident of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio. Born and reared in Henry county, Ohio, he came to this county immediately after his marriage and located in Liberty township on a farm where he has since made his home. Starting in with a farm of seventy acres, he has added to it as he has prospered year after year until he now owns one hundred and fifty acres in Liberty and Palmer townships. He comes of German ancestry and his life has been characterized by that thrift which has made the people of Germany so successful in this country.

Peter J. Mangus, the son of Peter and Sarah (Jackman) Mangus, was born in New Bavaria, Henry county, Ohio, in 1856. His parents were both natives of Germany, his father being born in the fall of 1824. Peter Mangus was five years of age when he came to America with his parents, Caspar and Mary Mangus, and located in Henry county, Ohio. At that time practically the whole county was covered with dense forests, and the family was compelled to thread their way along devious Indian trails in order to get to the farm which they had entered from the government. Caspar Mangus was a baker in Germany and made a good living in his native land. He came to this country because land was so cheap, but he had the misfortune to locate in a county which was still unsettled and very swampy. Wild animals of all kinds were roaming the forest when the family located in Henry county. Caspar Mangus lived to see his farm greatly improved and in such a state of cultivation as to make a comfortable living for the family. Peter Mangus grew to manhood on this farm, and, before his marriage, was a canal driver on the old canal from Toledo to Defiance. He drove as many as six mules at a time, one behind the other, and in middle life still retained sufficient agility to mount a mule from the ground without any difficulty. After he drove the mules for some time, he was made captain of a crew of canal drivers, and after his marriage he still continued working on the towpath for two years.



Peter Mangus married Sarah Jackman, a native of France, a daughter of Joseph and Mary Jane Jackman, early settlers in Seneca county, New York, and still later, in Henry county, Ohio. After Peter Mangus stopped working on the canal, he became a stock-buyer and, for a quarter of a century, was engaged in this industry. He bought a farm at New Bavaria, in Henry county, which was operated by his sons, while he continued to give his time and attention to the buying and shipping of live stock. He spent his last years in Defiance, where his death occurred, and where his wife died later, in June, 1913. Peter J. Mangus, Sr., and wife were the parents of nine sons and two daughters, eight of whom are still living, Henry, Frank B., Peter, Jr., Albert, George, Joseph, Andrew and Fred. Theodore died at the age of twenty-one, and the two daughters, Cornelia and Ella, died in childhood.

Peter J. Mangus, Jr., was reared on his father's farm in Henry county, and remained at home until his marriage. He and his brother, Frank, married sisters, and at the time of their marriage, each brother owned a small tract of land at New Bavaria, and their wives also owned a small tract which lay in the northwestern part of Liberty township, in Putnam county. By exchanging with Frank, Peter and his wife became the owners of seventy acres of land in the northwestern part of Liberty township, in Putnam county, and on this farm they have since made their home. When they came to this vicinity they found the land practically covered with a heavy growth of timber and it was necessary to clear away a spot on which to build a little log cabin. Things must have looked very discouraging at first, but with a hearty will they started to work and soon had the satisfaction of seeing their farm yield a very comfortable living. Mr. Mangus erected a large barn in 1893 and two years later built a comfortable home. As the years have gone by, he has been able to add to his land holdings and now owns one hundred and ten acres of fine land in Liberty township and forty acres across the road in Palmer township. He always keeps a high grade of stock and has been particularly successful in the raising of Jersey cattle and Poland China hogs.

Peter J. Mangus was married, in 1882, to Mary Thiebaut, who was born at Findlay, Ohio, and is a daughter of John and Jennie (Marschel) Thiebaut, and to this union have been born four children, Ella, Mary J., Laura and Emily. Ella is the wife of Joseph Swary, a farmer of this county, and has three children, Germaine, Julius and Evaline; Mary J. is the wife of Joseph Oakley, a farmer of this county, and has one son, Virgil; Laura is the wife of Henry Shoemaker, a farmer of this county, and has one daughter, Elma; Emily, the youngest of the four daughters, is single and still living with her parents.

John Thiebaut, the father of Mrs. Mangus, was born in France, in July, 1831, and at the age of twenty-one, came to America and located at Findlay, Ohio, where he secured employment in a grist-mill. Later, he moved on a farm two miles northeast of Leipsic, in Putnam county, Ohio, and in 1863 moved to the northwestern part of Liberty township, where he bought a farm and lived the remainder of his life. He started in with forty acres, but by good management increased it to one hundred and fifty acres before his death. The wife of John Thiebaut, Jennie Marschel, was also a native of France. Her husband died on the sea on their way to America, and her mother came on and located in Findlay, Ohio. John Thiebaut died in July, 1907, at the age of seventy-six, his wife having died seventeen years previously. Two children were born to John Thiebaut and wife, Mary, the wife of Peter Mangus, and Jennie, the wife of Frank B. Mangus.

Peter Mangus and his family are loyal members of the Sacred Heart Catholic church at New Bavaria. He is a Republican, but has never had any inclination to take an active part in political matters. He is a man of essentially domestic taste and is never happier than when seated at his own fireside and surrounded by members of his family. He is a quiet and unostentatious citizen, who has taken his full share of the burdens of civic life, and in all things tried to do his duty as a good American citizen.

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#### GEORGE MULLETT.

Men who clear the rough land, drain the soil and erect attractive and commodious barns and buildings are benefactors to any community. Farming has become a problem of brain as well as brawn, and men, to succeed, must be capable to mastering every phase of scientific agriculture. George Mullett is one of the successful farmers of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, and was born on August 7, 1848, in Licking county, Ohio, the son of John and Maria (Ratz) Mullett. John Mullett was born in Canton Berne, Switzerland, near the town of Richten, in January, 1809. Maria Ratz was born in the same place in December, 1808. They were married on October 13, 1832, and had five sons and three daughters. They came to America in 1848, and were forty-eight days on the sea in a sailing vessel. They spent the winter in Rochester, New York, and the next spring came to Licking county, living there a year, when they moved to Columbus and Mr. Mullett worked in a brick yard. He then worked one year in building the National

road from Washington, D. C., to the Mississippi river. In the fall of 1853 he moved to Putnam county and located on section 28 of Liberty township, where he entered eighty acres of government land, all in the woods. They were compelled to follow a blazed trail to Glandorf and Ottawa. Many wild animals and game were found in the vicinity. Mr. Mullett and some of his sons helped to make the grade of the Nickel Plate railroad in 1856, working for one dollar a day, and by this means earned much-needed money to pay on the farm. He was at one time road supervisor. It cost one dollar to get his commission and at the close of the year he received just one dollar for salary. John Mullett died on January 19, 1892, nine days before his eighty-third birthday. At that time he had forty-eight grandchildren and twenty great-grandchildren.

George Mullett is one of eight children, the others being John, Maria, David, Jacob, Barbara, all born in Switzerland, William and Elizabeth. All are now deceased, except George and Elizabeth. Elizabeth is the wife of Charles Ellsworth and lives in Ithaca, Michigan.

George Mullett was married on April 15, 1875, to Matilda Wirth, who was born in Liberty township, the daughter of Samuel and Magdalena (Bauer) Wirth.

Samuel Wirth and wife were natives of Wurttemberg, Germany, but were married in America and lived near Elm Center, Liberty township, Putnam county. Mr. Wirth was a lifelong farmer after his marriage, though he did railroad construction work before his marriage.

After George Mullett married, he spent twelve years farming on his father's farm. He bought eighty acres in section 5, Liberty township, in 1887, where he has since lived. When he bought the farm, there was an old log house and about forty acres cleared. He has built a new house, cleared the land, drained it and now has a splendid farm. He bought twenty acres more at forty-five dollars an acre in 1899. Now it is worth several times that much.

To George and Matilda (Wirth) Mullett have been born four children, three of whom are living, Henry E., George R. and Albert Samuel. Edith B. died at the age of fifteen. Henry E., born on March 24, 1876, married Ida May Leinsetter, and has three children, Alvin, Bertha and Clarence, lives on a farm near his father; George R., July 30, 1878, and lives at home; Albert S., August 30, 1885, and also lives at home. Mrs. Mullett, the mother of these children, died on February 12, 1909. She was a quiet, unassuming woman, of a cheerful disposition and a faithful member of the Evangelical

Lutheran church, living according to the teachings of her faith. Mr. Mullett himself is a member of the Lutheran church.

He is a member of the Democratic party and has always been held in the highest esteem by all his neighbors.

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### HENRY JOSEPH HERMILLER.

Usually the finest words that can be collected to be said of a man are those epitomizing a life history after he has passed from this life. Among the progressive and industrious farmers of any community those citizens are always admired most who take an interest, not only in the welfare of the present, but also in the development of better conditions of future generations. The position of school trustee is an honorable one and a man trusted by the community with this responsible position is deserving of no little praise. He discharges his duties to the good of future generations and is honored long after his work is ended. All this may be said by way of preface to the sketch of Henry Joseph Hermiller, for six years the efficient school trustee of Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio.

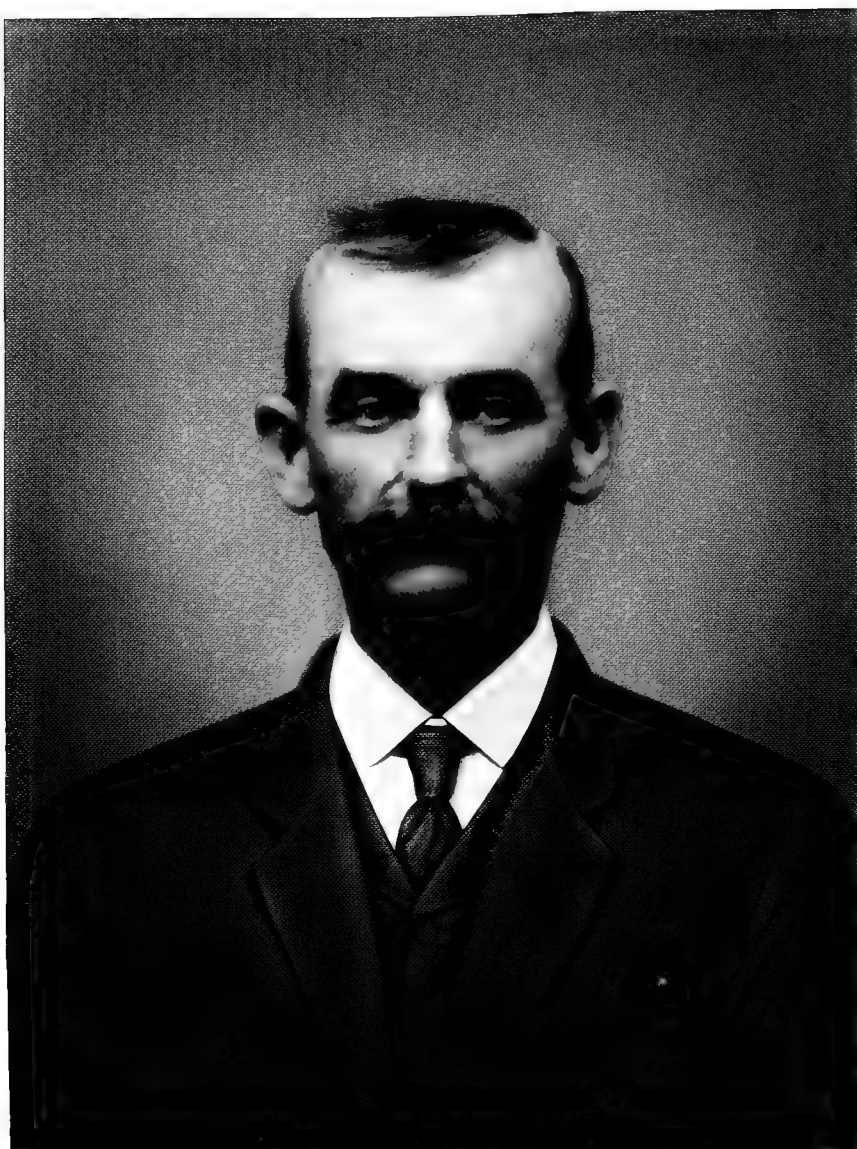
Henry Joseph Hermiller was born on February 14, 1862, in Ottawa township, the son of Bernard and Bernardina (Nadler) Hermiller and a brother of F. B. Hermiller, whose sketch, found elsewhere in this volume, gives further facts of the parental history.

Henry J. Hermiller lived at home until maturity and was then married, shortly before his twenty-fifth birthday, to Elizabeth Gerdeman. She was born south of Glandorf, Putnam county, the daughter of John D. and Anna (Recker) Gerdeman. She is a sister of Andrew Gerdeman, whose sketch, found elsewhere in the pages of this volume, gives the history of her parents.

After Mr. Hermiller's marriage he moved to the farm where he now lives. He owns eighty acres at home and one hundred and sixty-five and one-half acres in Pleasant township. He had a splendid house built the year before his marriage and remodeled in 1913, it now being thoroughly modern. He also built a large barn and raised a high grade of live stock.

To Henry Joseph and Elizabeth (Gerdeman) Hermiller six children have been born: Minnie, who is the wife of John Kreinbrink, and lives one-half mile south of her father's home, is the mother of two children, Helen and Paul; Harry, born on January 8, 1891; Laura, born on April 14, 1895; Vincent, born on January 16, 1899; Pauline, born on December 11, 1902, and





*H J Hermiller*





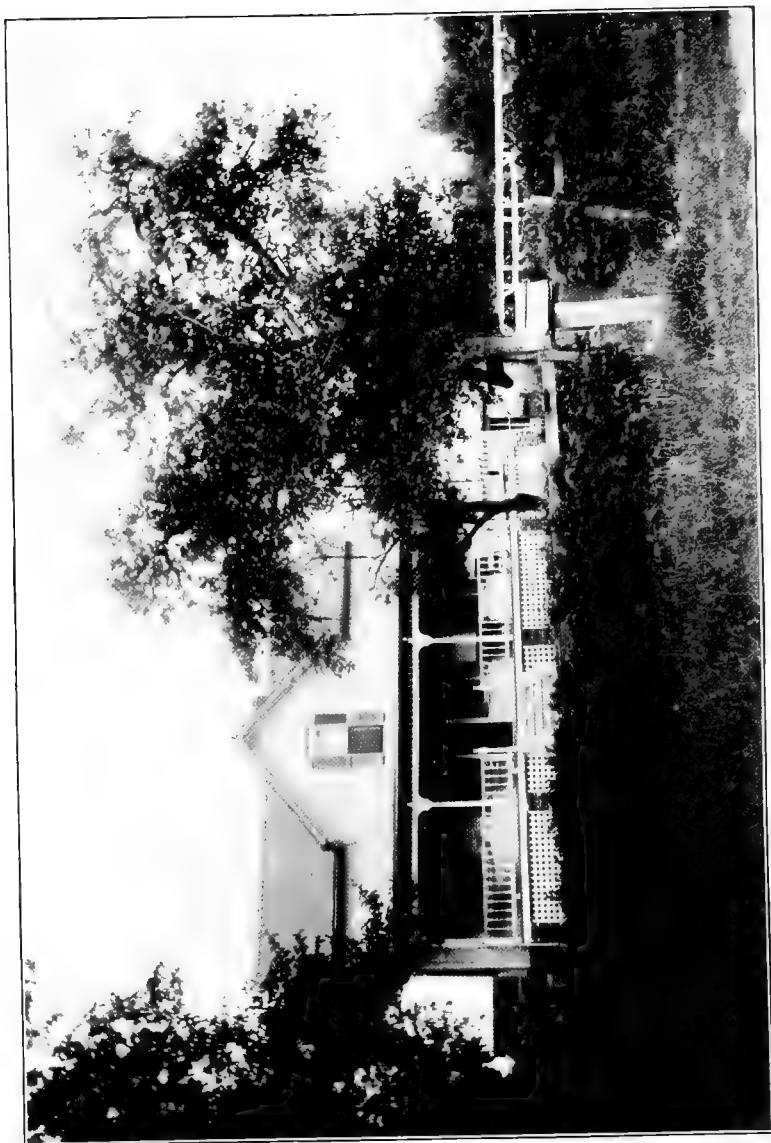




*Mrs. H. J. Hermiller*







RESIDENCE OF MRS. H. J. HERMILLER.

May, born on December 11, 1902, the two latter being twins. All of the children except Minnie are still at home.

When Henry J. Hermiller left his home to work among his machinery and in his saw-mill, no greater caution could have been given him than that in the beautiful quotation, "Watch, for ye know neither the day nor the hour when the Son of Man cometh." In perfect health, in high spirits, full of ambition and happy, he left his home with the caution of his faithful wife to be very careful, as she had a premonition of danger. While sawing wood on a saw that was being run by a gasoline engine, a belt slipped on the machinery, and when Mr. Hermiller attempted to adjust the belt his coat sleeve was caught in a fly-wheel, he was drawn into the machinery and met almost instant death. He met his death on April 3, 1915, at the age of fifty-three years, and was buried in the Ottawa Catholic cemetery. He leaves behind him to mourn their loss a loving wife, two sons, four daughters and many sincere and loyal friends.

During his life Mr. Hermiller served six years as township trustee. He was a member of the Democratic party. He and his family were members of the SS. Peter and Paul Catholic church at Ottawa. He was also a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio and the Aid Society. He was an enterprising and successful farmer, a credit to the community where he lived and in which he was extremely popular. He was known everywhere for his honesty and genial disposition.

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#### CHESTER L. SIMON.

Chester L. Simon stands out in the agricultural arena whose life has been one of untiring activity and has been crowned with a rather unusual degree of success in his chosen vocation. By his straightforward, honorable course, Mr. Simon has prospered in the world. While he has prospered he has retained the respect and confidence of his neighbors and fellow citizens. His life is a splendid example of what an American youth, endowed with common sense, energy and determination, can accomplish. Mr. Simon comes from a very old family of Putnam county, one that has always stood for honesty, frugality and industry, and one that has always been admired and respected for its many good works.

Chester L. Simon was born on January 28, 1878, in Greensburg town-

ship, on a farm. He is the son of Lewis and Jennie (Apger) Simon. Lewis Simon has long been one of the leading farmers of Greensburg township, but is now living retired. He was born in Putnam county on April 24, 1838, and was the son of John P. and Savilla (Genshimer) Simon. John P. Simon was born in Germany, on the Rhine, and was there married to Savilla Genshimer, also a native of Germany, born in 1812. Thirteen children were born to this marriage, as follow: John, a farmer near Dupont, Ohio; Catherine and Philip, who died young; Lewis, the father of Chester L.; Jacob, who died in childhood; Barbara, the wife of Michael Rinkle, of Dupont; Louisa, deceased; Sophia, who married Rev. Philip Kesler, of Dupont; Mrs. A. L. Hauck, of Ottawa; Anna, the wife of W. J. Varner, of Greensburg township; Savilla, who married J. W. Purnell, of Greensburg township; Elizabeth, deceased, and John Adam, who died at the age of ten years.

After coming to the United States, John P. and Savilla Simon located in Philadelphia, but subsequently removed to Richland county, Ohio, where they were pioneers and where they lived for some time. They located in Putnam county in 1836, where he purchased a tract of land in the woods and where he built a house of logs. They lived on the farm until 1863, when John P. Simon moved to Ottawa and there engaged in the mercantile business, in which he was very successful. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and belonged to the lodge at Defiance, Ohio. Later, he became a charter member of the lodge at Kalida. For many years he was a commissioned officer in the state militia. Before the Civil War, he was a stanch Democrat, but later became independent in politics. He died on April 29, 1888. At this time, he was a member of the Presbyterian church. His first wife, who was a member of the Lutheran church, died in 1856. He, subsequently, married Mrs. Margaret M. Landis, who bore him one son, Adam, in 1859. John P. Simon was married, a third time, to Mrs. Margaret Hedges, who died on March 25, 1895.

Chester L. Simon's father, Lewis Simon, has been twice married. He was married the first time on April 13, 1861, to Barbara M. Dangler, the daughter of George and Fannie (Fender) Dangler. Four children were born to this union, Anna, who married H. J. Kirkendall; Veronica, who married George Ridenour; John A. and Barbara M., who died in infancy. Mrs. Barbara Simon died on May 11, 1868, and Mr. Simon was married a second time, on March 18, 1870, to Jennie Apger, the daughter of John R. and Elizabeth Apger, and a native of Carroll county, Ohio, born on February 10, 1847. To this marriage were born seven children, Mary L., who died on October 31, 1876; Charles E., Chester L., the subject of this sketch;

Ora A., Lewis W., Blanche, Ralph B. and an infant that died unnamed. Lewis Simon is still living on the farm, although his age has prevented active work for several years. He is a member of the Masonic lodge No. 325, at Ottawa.

Chester L. Simon's mother, the second wife of Lewis Simon, is descended from illustrious ancestors. Her father, John R. Apger, was born in New Jersey in 1816, the son of Isaac Apger, a native of New Jersey and of English descent. Isaac Apger was a pioneer farmer of Carroll county, Ohio, and moved to Wood county in 1847. He died in this county some time in the fifties. John R. Apger was educated in New Jersey and was reared as a farmer. He learned the shoemaker trade and worked at it off and on. He married Elizabeth Atchley in 1837, a daughter of Isaac and Anna (Van Horn) Atchley, natives of New Jersey, who later removed to New York. To this union were born seven children: Mary C.; Mrs. Lewis Simon; Marion N.; Isaac N., deceased; Anderson S., who was a soldier in the Civil War; Alletty A., deceased, and Elizabeth, also deceased. Mrs. Elizabeth Apger was born in New Jersey, in 1812, and moved with her parents to New York, where she was married. Mr. Apger settled in Carroll county in 1865, where he farmed for ten years and then moved to Wood county. Here he entered a tract of land, which he cleared and improved. In the meantime he taught school. Mrs. John R. Apger died March 25, 1865, and Mr. Apger was married a second time, in Wood county, in 1866, to Mrs. Matilda Wyckoff, and four children were born to this last marriage, Benton, Earl J., Cloise and Blanche. Mr. Apger was a Democrat in politics. He died on May 12, 1882, and at this time was an active and devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Chester L. Simon was educated in the Greensburg township public schools and farmed on his father's farm until he was married. His marriage took place on January 30, 1898, when he was united to Maude Jenkins, the daughter of David and Nancy (Sackett) Jenkins, of Continental, Ohio. After their marriage, Mr. Simon remained on the homestead for a time and then moved to a farm of eighty acres in section 33 of Palmer township. Forty acres of this land was available for farming. This tract formerly belonged to Chester L. Simon's father. Mr. Simon had a house built before moving to the farm and a barn also, and then fenced the land, drained it and cleared twenty-seven acres.

To Chester L. and Maude (Jenkins) Simon three children were born: Edna, Gale and Lowell.

Mrs. Maude (Jenkins) Simon died in January, 1908, and in March,

1911, Mr. Simon was married a second time, to Carrie Halbgwoks, the daughter of John Halbgwoks, of Monroe township, Putnam county. No children have been born to this second marriage.

Of Mr. Simon's children by his first marriage, Edna attends high school at Continental and Lowell attends school in Greensburg township.

Chester L. Simon is identified with the Democratic party, but is more or less independent in voting. Mrs. Simon is a member of the United Brethren church at Forest Grove.

Chester L. Simon has a well-kept farm. He is progressive in his ideas and is rated in the community as a very good farmer. He is highly respected and belongs to one of the oldest families in Putnam county.

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#### CHRIST STEFFEN.

The desire for home and comfort enables men to endure bravely almost any privation or misfortune. When success has come and the hardest struggle is over, men look back and remember between smiles and tears all the incidents, happy and sad, of the struggle. Christ Steffen, a farmer of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, has made a brave fight to attain his present degree of success.

Christ Steffen was born in 1852, in Germany. At the age of six months he came to America with his parents, Jacob and Gertrude Steffen. They came to Tiffin, Ohio, and lived there until his parents died. The father died soon after coming to this country and, seven years later, the mother died.

Christ Steffen was cared for during his childhood by his relatives, who moved near to Bavaria, Ohio, two years later, and there he received his education, attending the public schools until he was twelve years of age. After this he lived with a sister and her husband at Kalida until he grew to manhood.

Christ Steffen was married in 1877, at Glandorf, to Veronica Hueve, who was born at Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, the daughter of Barney and Theresia (Winkelman) Hueve. Barney Hueve was born in Hanover, Germany, who came to the United States with his parents about the age of eighteen, and settled at Glandorf about the year 1840. Barney Hueve and wife lived at Glandorf all their lives. He was a farmer and also operated a brick yard at this place. About a year after Mr. Steffen's marriage, he and his wife moved to Liberty township, where they bought eighty acres of land,



all in woods and very swampy. That was about thirty-eight years ago, and at that time deer were to be seen, and wild turkeys were as common as tame turkeys are now. Mr. Steffen cleared and drained his land, a tremendous undertaking, and developed, out of this eighty acres, a good farm. He now has the original acres, and has added two hundred acres more, all clear of encumbrance. Mr. Steffen has been reasonably free from misfortunes and has worked and managed carefully for his present success. He clearly remembers the early days and the work, hardships and privations of those times.

To Christ and Veronica (Hueve) Steffen seven children have been born, Amos, Mollie, Nora, Frances, Alexander, Leo and Jerome. Amos married Nora Heinel and lives in Van Buren township, who have two children, Clement and Gladys; Mollie is the wife of Sebastian Schieber, a farmer of Palmer township, and they have three children, Rosa, Urban and Albert; Alex was married, first, to Adeline Schmenk, who died, leaving one daughter, Alfreda. Alex afterward married Bertha Noirot, and lives in Palmer township; Nora is the wife of John Steffes, a farmer of Palmer township, and they have two children, Isabelle and Leonard, and Frances is the wife of Charles Burkhart and lives in Defiance.

Christ Steffen is a member of the Democratic party. He and his family are devoted and loyal members of the St. Nicholas's Catholic church at Miller City and contribute liberally to the support of this denomination. Christ Steffen and wife and their family are prominent in the community where they live, being interested in all good works and taking an active part in promoting them.

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#### MARTIN BALL.

Although Martin Ball represents the third generation of the Ball family in America, his father and his grandfather were born in Germany. Martin Ball himself, therefore, is the first generation of the Ball family born in this country. Martin Ball owns forty acres of land in Palmer township, which he received from his father. Here he has erected buildings and otherwise improved the land in many particulars. Aside from the forty acres which Mr. Ball owns, he also leases and farms eighty acres which belong to his brother, George, of North Creek. Immediately after his marriage, Mr. Ball was engaged in farming land adjoining the farm upon which he now lives, and which he has since purchased.

Martin Ball was born on his father's farm in Palmer township, where

John Ball now lives, on October 18, 1868. His parents were Ferdinand and Emeline (Gross) Ball, the former of whom was born on August 25, 1825, in Germany, and who came to America with his parents, Barney and Mary M. Ball, when very young. Barney and Mary M. Ball settled on a farm in Stark county, and later moved to Palmer township, Putnam county, and settled on forty acres which had been school land. Here they lived the remainder of their lives. Their children were Barney, George, Mathias, John and Ferdinand. All of these children are now deceased, with the exception of John. Ferdinand Ball married Emeline Gross, May 13, 1845. She was a native of Luxemburg, Germany, born on January 10, 1831, and came to America with her parents when very young. They also settled in Stark county, Ohio. She was reared and educated there, and after her marriage moved with her husband to Putnam county. Ferdinand Ball had learned the blacksmith trade and established a shop on his farm. He devoted a part of his time to blacksmithing and a part to farming. By hard work, he increased his original farm of forty acres to about two hundred acres. He also acquired a farm of forty acres in Monroe township. In later years he retired from blacksmithing and devoted practically all of his time to farming. During the last year of the Civil War he enlisted in the Sixty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and rendered commendable service. At the close of the war he returned to Putnam county. He took an active interest in the civic welfare of the county during his lifetime, but, nevertheless, was indifferent to politics. He devoted most of his time to his farm and the welfare of his family. Before his death, which occurred on January 16, 1910, he distributed his farms among his children. Mrs. Ferdinand Ball died on December 26, 1895. She was a loyal and faithful helpmate and did her part in behalf of the family fortune and future. Ferdinand Ball and his wife were highly esteemed people. Their children were Henry, John, Mary, George, William, Catherine (deceased), Susanna and Martin, the subject of this sketch. Henry and John live on the old homestead, in Palmer township; George is a merchant at North Creek; William is a farmer in Palmer township; Mary is now a Mrs. Engleman, of Palmer township; Susanna is unmarried and lives on the home place. The late Ferdinand Ball and his wife for years attended the Sacred Heart Catholic church at New Bavaria, and later attended St. Joseph's church at North Creek. Mr. Ball gave the three acres of ground upon which St. Joseph's church is constructed. He had also contributed liberally to its support. Both he and his wife died on the farm where they had settled.

Martin Ball was educated in the old district No. 3 school of Palmer

township. He lived on his father's farm until his marriage, which took place on January 11, 1898. Mr. Ball was married to Jennie Mollette, the daughter of Henry and Jane (Crago) Mollette, the former of whom was a native of Cleveland, Ohio, and the latter of Napoleon, Ohio. They were married at Napoleon and after their marriage lived at McClure. Subsequently, they moved to Palmer township, and in January, 1905, moved to Florida. They had six children: Philip, Mrs. Jennie Ball, Edward, Alma, William and Grace. Philip, Alma and Edward live in Henry county; Grace lives in Nassau county, Florida, with her parents.

Martin and Jennie (Mollette) Ball have eight children, all of whom are living at home. They are as follow: Gertrude, born on September 3, 1899; Guy, August 16, 1901; Hildegard, March 1, 1904; Virgil, August 18, 1905; Ferdinand, April 3, 1908; Leo, February 5, 1910; Blanche, July 30, 1911, and Magdalene, September 8, 1913.

Martin Ball is an able citizen in every respect. He is a substantial farmer, and a Democrat. The Ball family belongs to the St. Joseph's Catholic church at North Creek, and are prominent members of this church. Those of the children who go to school attend district school No. 3 in Palmer township.

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#### PETER WILLIAMS.

Among those who are eminently entitled to a place in a work of this character is Peter Williams, a well-known farmer of Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio. Mr. Williams has performed well his part in the drama of civilization and has led a life that is exemplary in every respect. He has set an excellent example to the younger generation, and has been a leader in his county in all matters pertaining to the upbuilding of the community. He has done what good he could in all lines and has labored not only for the advancement of his own interests, but for the welfare and advancement of his section of the county. Mr. Williams is well known in his township, and enjoys the confidence and esteem of all his neighbors.

Peter Williams was born on December 19, 1861, in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, and is a son of Michael and Mary Ann (Frankhart) Williams, who were both natives of Germany. Mrs. Mary Ann (Frankhart) Williams came from Germany with her parents to America, and the family located on a farm in Seneca county, Ohio. The family consisted of the following children: Nicholas, Mary Ann, Jane, John, Catherine and John N.

Michael Williams came from Germany in an early day and also located in Seneca county, Ohio, and after his marriage to Mary Ann Frankhart, settled on a farm in that county, where he lived for a number of years, and later moved to Putnam county to a farm of eighty acres. To this farm he subsequently added more acreage from time to time until he owned one hundred and twenty acres of good farming land. Michael Williams and wife were the parents of the following children: Tillie, Margaret, John, Jacob, Peter, Mary, Michael, Catherine Emma, Joseph, and two who died in infancy. Tillie and Joseph are also deceased. The mother of these children died in Landick, Ohio, while the father died in Palmer township, Putnam county. All the family were devout members of the Catholic church. Michael M. Williams was a Democrat and served as township treasurer for a number of years.

Peter Williams was educated in the schools of Palmer township and, before his marriage, worked on a farm. He also operated a saw-mill in partnership with his brother, John. This mill was located in Palmer township, and was operated for a number of years. Mr. Williams was married on September 12, 1893, to Alice L. King, the daughter of Solomon and Mary Katherine (Liese) King.

Solomon King was born in Fairfield county, Ohio; his wife was born in Sandusky, Ohio, and after their marriage they moved to Putnam county, Ohio, where they lived on a farm until Mr. King's death. His widow afterward moved to Wood county, Ohio, and from there to Lucas county, Ohio, and still later to Ontario, Canada, where she is still living. Solomon King and wife were the parents of the following children: Alice, Malinda, Ida Jane, Otho, Charles, Champ, Nora P. and Fred. Of this number Alice, Malinda, Charles and Nora are deceased. Those living make their home in Canada.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Williams moved to a farm consisting of thirty-five and one-half acres in section 9, of Palmer township. This farm Mr. Williams purchased before his marriage, and here he erected buildings and cleared and improved the land, bringing the farm to a high state of cultivation. Peter and Alice L. (King) Williams were the parents of two children, Howard P., born on August 16, 1895, and Glen W., on October 17, 1897. The mother of these children died March 5, 1914, and was buried in the North Creek cemetery. She was eminently respected in her neighborhood, a good mother and a faithful and devoted wife.

Mr. Williams still lives on the farm where he settled soon after his marriage. His two sons assist their father on the farm. They are bright

and industrious boys, of whom their father is justly proud. Mr. Williams is engaged in general farming and has met with a very fair degree of success in his operations, being a man of sterling integrity, and known to be a staunch and honorable citizen, respected by all.

Mr. Williams is a Democrat in politics, served his fellow citizens as township assessor for three years, and has also served on the school board of his township. His two sons were educated in the township schools, and Howard was a student in the high school at Miller City. The family are earnest and devout members of the Catholic church, in which denomination they are deeply interested.

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### HENRY BURKHART.

The Burkhart family is a very old one in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio. Representatives of the family came to this county when it was a swamp and wilderness and developed good farms. Henry Burkhardt's father farmed the same land and lived in the same house in which Henry Burkhart and his wife now live. Henry Burkhart himself owns a splendid farm of eighty acres in Palmer township, which was deeded to him by his father. It comprises a part of his father's estate. Henry Burkhart has always lived here, and has always occupied the old homestead. He applies himself industriously and intelligently as a farmer and is a hard-working, conscientious citizen. Henry Burkhart and wife had the misfortune to lose three children in 1913. It was a sad event and one which called forth the sympathy of all their neighbors and friends. The Burkharts are not only good farmers, but they are highly respected citizens.

Henry Burkhart was born on April 22, 1868, in Palmer township. His parents were John and Gertrude (Pfeiffer) Burkhart.

Henry Burkhart was educated in Palmer township, and grew up on his father's farm. He materially assisted in the development and improvement of this farm, and during his youth performed at least his share of the work on the farm. He applied himself industriously to tasks allotted to him.

Henry Burkhart was married on September 17, 1897, to Mary Klinshirn, daughter of John and Mary (Kramer) Klinshirn. Mary was one of eleven children born to her parents. Henry and Mary (Klinshirn) Burkhart have had nine children, three of whom are deceased: Herman, the eldest, deceased; Viola, deceased; Cletis, deceased; Herman was the first, Viola the fourth and Cletis the eighth child born to the parents. The living

children are Joseph, Delphine, Loretta, Albert, Virgil and Clarence. Albert and Loretta are attending school.

Henry Burkhardt's father, John Burkhardt, was born in Germany and came to America at the age of twelve years, with his parents. They settled in Lorain county, Ohio, where he was educated and where he was married to Gertrude Pfeiffer. After their marriage, they followed farming for a time in that county, and later they removed to Palmer township, Putnam county, where he purchased eighty acres of land. This tract was increased by the addition of eighty acres in section 3, at a time when this part of Putnam county was a dense wilderness, heavily timbered and with scarcely any roads. It was necessary to overcome many obstacles to succeed in farming. John Burkhardt cleared and drained the land and erected the buildings. At the time of his arrival in Putnam county the land was especially swampy. Later he purchased thirty acres more, in section 12, and at the time of his death he had a total of one hundred and ninety acres. He lived a life of great activity and unfailing industry. During the latter years of his life he lived retired, having divided most of his land among his children. He passed away on April 24, 1903. His wife, however, had died many years previously, October 5, 1889. They had twelve children: John, Elizabeth and Nicholas, the three eldest children, are deceased; Christ is now living in Florida; Mrs. Catherine Jackman lives at Fostoria, Ohio; Peter is deceased; Henry is the subject of this sketch; William lives in Henry county; Joseph is deceased; Mrs. Mary Little lives in Palmer township; Frank is deceased, and one child died in infancy.

Henry Burkhardt's paternal grandparents were natives of Prussia. His grandfather was Nicholas Burkhardt, who came to America with his family and settled in Lorain county, where they lived for many years, and where they died. They were sterling German citizens and pioneers in Lorain county, having been considered among the substantial citizens of their day and generation. They had three sons and three daughters, all of whom are now deceased. The sons were Christian, Peter and John.

Henry Burkhardt's maternal grandparents were also natives of Prussia. The maternal grandfather came to America with his family and settled in Lorain county. Their daughter, Gertrude Pfeiffer, was very young at the time. Mrs. Gertrude (Pfeiffer) Burkhardt had been born in the same province as her father. Mrs. Burkhardt's parents were both born in Germany. Her maternal grandparents were Henry Kramer and wife, natives of Germany, who came to America when their daughter Mary, the mother of Mr. Burkhardt's wife, was but twelve years old. They settled in Lorain county,

and there died on a farm. Mrs. Burkhart's parents married in Lorain county, and after their marriage moved to Henry county, where they settled on a farm. They first owned forty acres and later sold this farm and purchased one hundred acres in Pleasant township. Here John Klinshirn lived until his death. He was a Democrat in politics and a member of the Sacred Heart church at New Bavaria, Henry county. His wife is still living on the old homestead in Henry county, and is a member of the same church. His death occurred in 1900, when he was sixty-three years old. Mrs. Klinshirn is now about seventy-five years of age. She was born on December 8, 1839. Six of their eleven children are deceased. The deceased children are: John, who died in infancy, and a second child named John; Michael and Margaret, the fifth and sixth born; Peter, the eighth born, and Henry, the tenth born. George, the third child born, is living in Henry county, Ohio; Jacob, who was born after George, is living in Defiance county; Catherine, the seventh child, married a Mr. Westrick and lives in Henry county; Mary is the wife of Mr. Burkhart; Theresa, the youngest child, also married a Mr. Westrick, and lives in Henry county.

Henry Burkhart is a Democrat, but has never been especially active in politics, and is not active now. The family are members of the Sacred Heart Catholic church at New Bavaria. Mrs. Burkhart is a member of the Mothers' Society and prominent in its affairs. Henry Burkhart is a quiet and unassuming man, is a worthy citizen and is accorded this rank by his neighbors, with whom he is quite popular.

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#### LAWRENCE SEIMET.

It must be interesting to note, in the series of personal sketches appearing in this volume, the varying conditions that have surrounded those whose careers are here given. An effort has been made to throw light upon the individuality of the individual and to bring into proper perspective the scheme of each career. Each man who strives to fulfill his part in connection with human life and human activities, deserves recognition whatever may be his field of endeavor. It is the function of a work of this nature to perpetuate, for future generations, an authentic record of those represented in these pages. No occupation is more important to our present scheme of society than that of farming and Lawrence Seimet is one of the leading farmers of Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio.

Lawrence Seimet was born on April 19, 1870, near New Riegel, Ohio. He is the son of Nicholas and Elizabeth (Moreo) Seimet. Nicholas Seimet was born in the Duchy of Luxemburg, Germany, where his wife was also born in Germany. Nicholas Seimet came to America at the age of eighteen years. He learned the tailor's trade in Germany and was educated there. He had relatives near Delphos, Ohio, and came there to the home of his brother-in-law, Adam Stark, where he engaged in farming and also spent two seasons in Illinois as a farmer. He was married on January 24, 1861, to Elizabeth Moreo after which they moved to a farm near Delphos, where they lived for two years. Mr. Seimet then worked as a boatman on the canal and later moved to Henry county, Ohio, and lived on a farm of forty acres. He sold this farm and purchased eighty acres in Henry county which he later sold. About 1903 he moved to Leipsic, Ohio, where he purchased a house and lot, and where he lived for two years, and then moved to a farm of one hundred and sixteen acres in Van Buren township, Putnam county, Ohio, which he had previously purchased. He remained on this farm until 1912, at which time he sold it and moved again to Leipsic, where he purchased city property, and where he now lives retired.

Elizabeth Moreo came to America with her parents at the age of four years and settled at New Riegel, Ohio, Seneca county. She was one of a family of six children, the others being Lawrence, Andrew, Anna, Barbara and Julia. Nicholas Seimet was one of three children, John, who was born in Germany and died near Delphos, Ohio; Mrs. John Stark, who was born in Germany, came to America and settled near Delphos, Ohio, and Nicholas, who was the youngest.

To Nicholas and Elizabeth (Moreo) Seimet were born eight children, John, Andrew, Mary, Helena, Lawrence, Joseph, George and William. Joseph and George are deceased; Nicholas Seimet and wife are members of the St. Mary's Catholic church at Leipsic, Ohio. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on January 24, 1911. This celebration was attended by thirty-six children and grandchildren and other relatives.

Lawrence Seimet was educated in Henry county, Ohio. He left Seneca county with his parents at the age of two years, when they moved to Henry county and settled near Holgate. He lived on his father's farm of eighty acres, in Henry county, and here he spent his boyhood days. He remained on this farm for about thirty years.

Lawrence Seimet was married on October 26, 1899, to Christina Diemer, the daughter of Peter and Isabella (Zoll) Diemer. Peter Diemer was born on April 23, 1844, on a farm near New Bavaria. At the age of twenty years,



or in September, 1864, he enlisted in Company C, Fifty-fifth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served until discharged. He was honorably discharged on July 11, 1865. He was married, in 1872, to Isabella Zoll and after his marriage, lived on a farm and also worked at the carpenter trade near New Bavaria, and while here erected a saw-mill and grist-mill and ran these for many years, or until the fall of 1911, when he moved to Leipsic and occupied property which he had previously purchased. The property is located on Sugar street. Peter and Isabella Diemer have had four children, John, Mrs. Mary Zenz, Charles and Mrs. Christina Seimet.

Peter Diemer was a member of the Catholic church and was always a faithful attendant. He served as assessor of Marion township, Henry county, for seven years. Mr. Diemer contracted the fever in the swamps of the south during the Civil War, which afterward caused chronic rheumatism, from which he suffered for many years and finally caused his death. He was highly respected in the community where he lived.

After his marriage, Lawrence Seimet remained on his father's farm, in Henry county, for five years. During this time, he worked on shares. He purchased his first farm of forty acres in Palmer township and moved to it on December 15, 1904, which farm he rented for three years previous to moving upon it. In January, 1908, Mr. Seimet acquired forty additional acres in section 15, and about the same time also purchased thirty-three acres in section 26, making a total of one hundred and thirteen acres. He devotes his attention to general farming and raises a good quality of stock. He has made many improvements upon this farm, such as fencing, draining and the erecting of commodious outbuildings. The residence has been remodeled and a new barn was built in 1911.

Mr. and Mrs. Seimet have taken Loretta Sheeley, a second cousin of Mr. Seimet, to rear. She became a member of the Seimet family when seven years of age and has been with Mr. and Mrs. Seimet since that time. She is attending school at the present time. Mr. and Mrs. Seimet have no children of their own.

Religiously, Mr. and Mrs. Seimet are members of St. Nicholas's Catholic church at Miller City. Fraternally, Mr. Seimet is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio. Mrs. Seimet is a member of the Mothers' Society of the St. Nicholas's church. Politically, Mr. Seimet is a Democrat. He served as township supervisor of Marion township, Henry county, for two years and has served four years as director of the Farmers Mutual Telephone Company. He also served and is now serving as township trustee, which office he has held for four years.

## DANIEL HOFFMAN.

The thirty years which Daniel Hoffman has spent in Putnam county, Ohio, have been engaged in agricultural pursuits, and with a success which speaks well for his efforts. Coming to this county in 1892, he has accumulated, as the result of his own efforts, a farm of three hundred and ninety-three acres of farm land in Liberty, Palmer and Ottawa townships, and the farmer who does this is certainly to be classed among the successful farmers of the county. Mr. Hoffman is one of the many German-American farmers of this county, and no doubt has inherited those sterling characteristics of his ancestors which are always conducive to thrift.

Daniel Hoffman, a son of Valentine and Wilhelmina (Schwartz) Hoffman, was born in Rheinpfalz, Germany, October 17, 1846. His parents came to America in the fall of 1851, and located in Pleasant township, Henry county, Ohio, and made that county their home the remainder of their lives.

Daniel Hoffman was five years of age when his parents came to America, where he was educated in Henry county, and where they located. After receiving such education as was given in his home schools, he worked on his father's farm until his marriage, and continued to live in Henry county for fourteen years after his marriage. He sold his farm in Henry county in 1892 and came to Putnam county, where he bought one hundred acres in the western part of the township, in sections 6 and 7. By good management and incessant industry, he has added to this until he is now the owner of three hundred and ninety-three acres, situated in three townships, two hundred and sixty of which is in Liberty township, all of which is well improved and in a high state of cultivation. He traded his farm in Allen county, Indiana, for eighty-three acres in Ottawa township, Putnam county, this state.

Daniel Hoffman was first married, in 1870, to Margaret Shall, who was born in Pleasant township, Henry county, Ohio, and was a daughter of Henry and Martha (Horning) Shall. Henry Shall was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, and his wife in Rheinpfalz. The first wife of Mr. Hoffman died in 1887, leaving five children, four sons and one daughter: Andrew, who died in 1889, at the age of seventeen; Henry, born on January 26, 1876, now living with his father; Charles, November 1, 1877, married Louise Rose, and has five children, Viola, Howard, Robert, Virgil and Albert Edward; George, February 13, 1880, who married Etta Violet Stall, and has four children, Harry, Walter, Olin and Vera; Wilhelmina, who first married Philip Desgranges, who died leaving her with three children, Cora, Ralph and Raymond. After the death of her first husband, Minnie married James Sugg, a

farmer of Palmer township, and has one child by this marriage, Mary Elizabeth. The living children of Daniel Hoffman by his second wife are in Putnam county with the exception of Charles, who lives in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Daniel Hoffman was married the second time on October 9, 1894, to Rosina Fike, and to this second union two children have been born, Cora, on September 2, 1895, and Ora, August 23, 1897. Mr. Hoffman is an independent voter and prefers to cast his ballot for men rather than for platforms, feeling that in so doing he is best serving the interests of good government. He is a man of great energy, and during his life of more than twenty-three years in this county, has won the respect and esteem of a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

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#### FRANK D. BALBAUGH.

The progress of Putnam county, Ohio, has been largely due to the untiring struggle and success of the German citizens who live in this county. Some residents have come with their fathers to wild homes in the great land of freedom; others have been born in Putnam county after the arrival of their parents, but all inhabitants born of German parents have proved splendid citizens, interested in the welfare of the community, loyal always to the country of their adoption. An enterprising citizen of Liberty township, of German descent, is Frank D. Balbaugh, who has been a resident of the county all his life.

Frank D. Balbaugh, the son of John P. and Christiana (Meyers) Balbaugh, was born on December 16, 1863, one-half mile north of Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio. John P. Balbaugh was a native of Bavaria, Germany, and at the age of eighteen years came to America, locating in Putnam county shortly after coming here. He became a farmer in Putnam county, where he first bought land north of Ottawa, and later, in 1871, purchased land northeast of Elm Center. This land, in those early days, was all woods and water, with only a little dead timber on it. Here John P. Balbaugh built a log house and started in to make a home for himself and family in the wilderness, and succeeded in developing a splendid farm of eighty acres. Christina Meyers came from France, at the age of two years, with her German parents, who settled north of Ottawa. John P. Balbaugh and wife both died on the home farm near Elm Center; she in 1881, and he in 1892. They were the parents of ten children, of whom seven are living.

Frank D. Balbaugh has lived on the home place since 1871, receiving

his education in the schools of his neighborhood. On Thanksgiving Day, 1896, he was married to Minnie Heynes, the daughter of Frank and Anna M. (Schuler) Heynes. She was born at Leipsic and reared in that city. Her father was engaged in the saloon business in Leipsic until a year before his death. Frank Heynes was a native of Germany and Anna M. Schuler was born at Avon, Ohio, the daughter of Peter and Susan (Tisen) Schuler, who were natives of Germany and who lived near New Bavaria, Henry county, Ohio, until their death.

Frank Heynes moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, about 1887, and there his death occurred in 1889, after which time his widow and Mrs. Balbaugh lived in Scott county, Indiana, later returning to Cincinnati, and still later moving to Defiance, Ohio. Mrs. Heynes now lives in Indianapolis, Indiana. To Frank D. and Minnie (Heynes) Balbaugh six children have been born, Gertie, Alphonse, Harry, Emma, Frances and Robert.

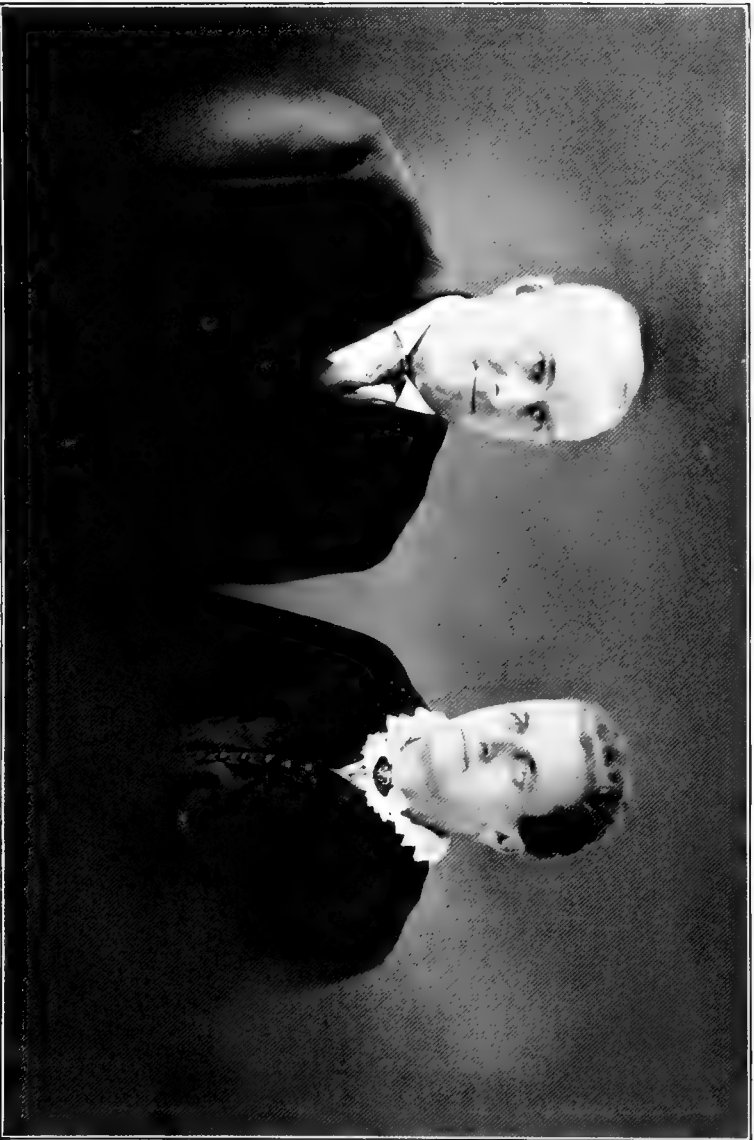
Frank D. Balbaugh now owns a splendid farm of one hundred and twenty acres and is engaged in operating this land. Mr. Balbaugh is a member of the Democratic party, while he and his family are devout members of the Catholic church. They are held in high esteem in the community where they have lived for so many years.

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### GEORGE GORES.

Among the self-made, substantial and progressive citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, is George Gores, who has made his home in this county since 1886. Born and reared in Germany, he did not come to this country until he was thirty-one years of age, and in a remarkably short time has built up a business which demonstrated that he had exceptional ability. For many years he was extensively engaged in the well-drilling and wind-pump business, an industry which he conducted with excellent results. Since 1900 he has devoted all of his time to farming, and now has probably the finest country home in the county and one of the most improved and best cultivated farms.

George Gores was born on October 23, 1850, at Huscheid, Rhein Province, Prussia. He attended the native schools of his Fatherland and worked on the home farm until 1881. In July of that year he came to America and first located at Fremont, Ohio. He remained here for two years and then moved to Auburn, Indiana, where he engaged in the tubular well business, continuing in that line in the vicinity of Auburn for two years. He then



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE GOURES.



moved to New Bavaria, Ohio, where he remained until April, 1886, at which time he moved to Leipsic, in Putnam county. He built up a business in well drilling, which continued for many years, and was marked with unusual success. He was a pioneer in the business in this section of the state, his operations extending over Dekalb and Steuben counties, Indiana, as well as Putnam, Henry, Hancock, Defiance and Paulding counties, in Ohio. No man in his line conducted a larger business or was more successful in this section of the state.

After moving to Leipsic he became a partner in the Leipsic Machine Works, in 1892, and while connected with this firm for one year showed remarkable ability for management. He sold his interests in the machine works managing an extensive agency for the sale of agricultural implements and vehicles. While living in Leipsic he owned a handsome residence on South Easton street, and bought a farm of eighty acres a mile southwest of the town which was then in a dilapidated condition, but his energy was so untiring that he made it one of the best farms in Ohio. In 1889 he erected a good farm residence, and in 1895 he put up a large modern barn on the place. He put in a complete system of under-draining and spent a large amount of money in the improvement of the farm. In 1900 he moved from Leipsic to this farm and since then has devoted his entire attention to farming. He now has two hundred acres all in one tract and all under a high state of cultivation.

The beautiful country home of Mr. Gores has more modern improvements than most city residences. He has electric light wired from Leipsic, and his house is well lighted, with an eye both to convenience and beauty. It is heated by furnace and he has both hot and cold rain water and cold well water piped over the house. A unique convenience is the fact that he has hot water piped to the barn, so that he can give his stock warm water during the winter. In the way Mr. Gores has improved his home and grounds he has set the pace, and his neighbors have emulated his example, and now for two miles the road on which his house fronts is called the "Main street," and it is said that nowhere in the state is there such another row of fine country homes.

Mr. Gores was a promoter of the Mutual Telephone Company, of Leipsic, in 1901, of which he was president for several years. In 1908 he made a visit back to his old home country, and while there traveled over the route between Paris and Cologne, and saw Liege and all of the other places where the great war is now being fought. While living in Leipsic his progressive

ideas won the notice and hearty approbation of his fellow townsmen, and he was twice elected to the city council, in 1897 and again in 1899.

Mr. Gores was married on November 19, 1885, to Mary Hoffman, of New Bavaria, Ohio, and his wife has proved an able assistant in the business undertakings of her husband. She was born in Nackshein, Rhein Province, Prussia, on December 21, 1860, and came to America with her parents, John and Margaret (Kirst) Hoffman, in July, 1868, when she was seven years old. Her family located in Henry county, where they followed farming for the rest of their lives, and there she grew to womanhood. Mr. Gores and his wife are the parents of five children: John G. married Anna Wank and now lives on part of his father's farm; Anna S., the wife of Ferdinand Meyer, a farmer of this county; Katherine, Eva and George, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Gores have one grandchild, Elizabeth, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Meyer.

The family are all loyal members of the Catholic church, to which Mr. Gores is a liberal contributor. He is progressive, industrious, energetic and honorable, and has fought his own way to business success, and it can be truly said that he is one of the representative men of his county.

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### JOHN MILTON JONES.

A native of the great Buckeye state and one of the successful young farmers of Putnam county, who owns a splendid farm in Palmer township, is John Milton Jones, who, early in life, became an expert saw filer and who, until some years ago, worked at this trade for a large lumber company in Alabama. Since engaging in farming, Mr. Jones has proved conclusively that persistent and well-directed effort is the surest guarantee of success. John Milton Jones has become, within a comparatively brief period, one of the most successful farmers of Palmer township and he is today one of the best-known and most highly respected.

John Milton Jones was born on August 28, 1875, in Guernsey county, Ohio. He is the son of Joseph and Malinda (Lanning) Jones. Joseph Jones was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, and grew to young manhood on a farm in that county, where he was educated and married. From Guernsey county he moved to Illinois, after his marriage, and spent eight years on a farm. He then returned to Guernsey county, Ohio, and erected and conducted a saw-mill. This he operated for about two years and then came to Putnam county, locating on the present site of Continental. Here he built a saw-mill,



bringing the material with him from Guernsey county. He followed the saw-mill business for some time in other parts of the county and state where timber abounded. In 1911 he and part of his family moved to Nocatee, Florida, where he engaged as a saw filer for a large lumber and saw-mill company, being considered an expert at this business. He owns one large orange grove in Florida. His wife was born on September 10, 1856, in Guernsey county and was educated there.

John Milton Jones is the eldest of twelve children born to his parents. The others are Elizabeth, the wife of Celestian Noirot, of Palmer township; Mrs. Emma Horning, of New Bavaria; Charles, who lives in Alabama; Jesse, who lives at Salesville, Mississippi; Howard, who lives at Holmesville, Ohio; Edna, who lives at Coshocton, Ohio; Mrs. Blanche McKelrey, who lives in Orrville, Ohio; Ida and Clyde, twins, the former of Palmer township and the latter of Nocatee, Florida; Hazel and Walter, both of Nocatee. The parents of these children also live in Florida.

John Milton Jones was educated in the public schools of Continental and lived with his parents until about 1900, assisting his father on the farm and in the management of the saw-mill. He went to Alabama in 1900 and took employment with the Horseshoe Lumber Company as a saw filer, having learned this trade under the direction of his father. Mr. Jones remained with this company steadily for two years and then returned to Putnam county, Ohio, where he was married on November 30, 1902, to Seluta Brinkman, who was born in Palmer township, Putnam county, and is the daughter of Frederick and Mary E. (Champion) Brinkman. Mrs. Jones was educated in Palmer township, Putnam county.

Immediately after his marriage, Mr. Jones returned to Alabama with his wife and continued to follow saw filing as a trade. He also learned the millwright's trade and worked at this when he first returned south. In March, 1914, John M. Jones and wife returned to Putnam county. Mrs. Jones had inherited one-half of a one-hundred-and-sixty-acre farm, and her brother, George, had inherited the other half. Mr. Jones purchased the interest of his brother-in-law and now owns and farms one hundred and sixty acres. He erected a splendid new residence on this place in 1914 and made many other improvements. He had erected a new barn in 1913. In fact, many substantial improvements have been made under the able direction and supervision of Mr. Jones. He has applied himself diligently to the development and improvement of the farm. One child, Ardath, was born to John Milton and Seluta (Brinkman) Jones on November 3, 1905.

John Milton Jones votes the Republican ticket in national affairs, but generally votes the Democratic ticket in local politics. Mr. and Mrs. Jones are members of the Methodist church. John Milton Jones is an expert millwright and saw filer. He is also a splendid farmer, active, intelligent and much admired by the people of Palmer township.

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### ALLEN HUYSMAN.

Among the young men of Putnam county who have achieved a marked degree of success in commercial life, is the gentleman whose name forms the caption for this review. "Keep abreast of the times" is one of the heretofore unpublished mottoes which this young man has been following, and, by careful management, well-directed energy and unswerving loyalty to recognized fair-and-square business dealings, he has forged to the front and today carries the distinction of being one of the most successful business men throughout this region. Being a man of honorable methods and strictly progressive in his views, he holds the confidence of the people of his community and is well worthy of mention in a work of this nature.

Allen Huysman was born in Monterey township, this county, on January 17, 1889, and is the son of Cornelius and Lydia (Semer) Huysman. Cornelius Huysman's life record is given elsewhere in this work. His mother, Lydia (Semer) Huysman was born in Reading, Pennsylvania, and came to Putnam county, Ohio, with her parents when she was a little child but two years old. Allen's grandfather was born in Holland and later, coming to this country, was one of the early settlers in Monterey township, Putnam county, where he farmed his entire life and died in 1894. The grandmother died a few years previous to the death of her husband.

Allen Huysman received his early education in the Spangler school, in Van Wert county, and was under the guardianship of his Aunt Catherine Osenga, on account of the death of his mother on January 21, 1889, at which time he was but four days old. After finishing his schooling, Allen Huysman was married, on October 19, 1911, to Irene Fierstos, a daughter of Joseph and Gertrude (Hermann) Fierstos, whose parents are now living in retirement in Ottoville, this county, and who were formerly engaged in farming. To Allen and Irene (Fierstos) Huysman have been born one child, a daughter, Marie.

For about three years, Mr. Huysman was engaged in the hardware and

implement business, under the name of George Wannemacher & Company, and was financially interested in this concern. Having sold out his interests in this business, he purchased a site in Ottoville, this county, for the purpose of carrying on business as a dealer in automobiles. The building was not suitable and after enlarging and remodeling it for the purpose to which he intended using it, he secured the agency for the Ford automobiles and the Ford Motor Company of Detroit, Michigan, having found a hustling agent for their product in this part of Ohio, assigned him as exclusive agent for the townships of Monterey, Jennings and Jackson, in Putnam county, also Jackson township in Van Wert county. In addition to the selling of automobiles, Mr. Huysman conducts an automobile livery and garage, and does electrical work in connection with automobiles.

Allen Huysman is a staunch Republican, and though not active in politics, is aggressive in advocating those principles of the party which affect the public welfare. He does not claim affiliation to any particular church, but his wife is an active and devout member of the Catholic church of Ottoville. Personally Mr. Huysman holds the respect of the entire community in which he lives and, being a man of genial disposition, makes friends easily and has the faculty of keeping them. His marked ability as a salesman, identifies him in this vicinity as a man possessing keen ability, and his success has been the result of the confidence reposed in him by his fellow citizens who found him worthy in every respect.

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#### JOHN A. SIMON.

The late John Simon belongs to that class of men who win life's battles by sheer force of personality and determination, coupled with soundness of judgment and keen discrimination. In whatever the late John Simon undertook he showed himself to be a man of ability and honor. He was always ready to lend his aid in defending principles affecting public good and ably and conscientiously served the people of his community. Mr. Simon was prominent in the political and civic life of Palmer township, where he lived for many years, and, having descended from one of the old pioneer families of this section of the state of Ohio, he was entitled to rank as a representative citizen. The late John A. Simon is remembered by a host of friends, who revere his memory and who yet do honor to the good name which he built up in Putnam county.

John A. Simon was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, on his father's farm on March 23, 1866. He was the son of Lewis and Margaret (Dangler) Simon, the former of whom was born in Putnam county on April 24, 1838, and who in turn was the son of John P. and Savilla (Genshimer) Simon. John P. Simon was born in Germany, on the Rhine, and there was married to Savilla Genshimer, a native of Germany, born in 1812. John P. and Savilla (Genshimer) Simon were the parents of the following children: John, a farmer of Dupont, Ohio; Catherine and Philip, both deceased; Lewis, the father of the late John Simon, the subject of this sketch; Jacob, who died in childhood; Barbara, wife of Michael Rinkle, of Dupont; Louisa, deceased; Sophia, who married the Rev. Philip Kesler, of Dupont; Mrs. A. L. Hauck, of Ottawa; Anna, who married W. J. Varner, of Greensburg township; Savilla, who married J. W. Parnell, of Greensburg township; Elizabeth, deceased, and John Adam, who died young.

John P. and Savilla (Genshimer) Simon emigrated to the United States and first located at Philadelphia, where they remained a short time. Later they removed to Richland county, Ohio, where they were pioneers and where they purchased a tract of land. After living there until 1836 they removed to Putnam county, Ohio, where he purchased a tract of land in the woods, built a log house, cleared and drained his land. They lived on this farm until 1863, when, on account of failing health, John P. Simon moved to Ottawa, where he was engaged in the mercantile business. John P. Simon was a Mason, having joined the lodge at Kalida. He was a commissioned officer in the state militia and was a foremost citizen in the community where he lived and stood for law and order. He died on April 29, 1888, at which time he was a devout member of the Presbyterian church. Mrs. Savilla (Genshimer) Simon died in 1856, and subsequently Mr. John P. Simon married Mrs. Margaret M. Landis, who bore him one son, Adam, in 1859. After her death, Mr. Simon married Mrs. Margaret Hedges, who died on March 25, 1895.

The late John A. Simon's father, Lewis Simon, a venerable resident of this county, was reared on a farm and educated in the old-fashioned log schoolhouse. He was married to Margaret M. Dangler on April 13, 1861. She was the daughter of George and Fannie (Fender) Dangler, and by this union four children were born: Anna, who married H. J. Kirkendall; Veronica, who married George Rinedour; John A., the subject of this sketch, and Barbara, who died in infancy. Mrs. Simon died on May 11, 1868. Mr. Simon was married, the second time, March 18, 1870, to Jennie Apger, daughter of John R. and Elizabeth Apger, who was born on Feb-

ruary 10, 1847. To this second marriage seven children were born: Mary L., who died on October 31, 1876; Charle E., Chester L., Ora A., Lewis W., Blanch, Ralph B. and an infant who died unnamed. Lewis Simon is still living in Putnam county, and, although disabled, is a man who retains all of his mental faculties. His life has been eminently connected with the history of Putnam county and he is a man highly respected throughout the county. He is a member of Masonic lodge No. 325, at Ottawa, and is also a member of the United Brethren church.

The late John A. Simon was educated in the Greensburg township public schools and lived on his father's farm until early manhood. He was married on October 1, 1891, to Millie Mullet, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Crow) Mullet. Jacob Mullet was born in Switzerland, in 1840, and was the son of John and Maria (Ratz) Mullet. About 1847 they came to America. They were three months making the voyage on a sailing vessel. John Mullet, after spending about a year at Cincinnati and a few years at Columbus, Ohio, located near Elm Center, about 1852, while the land was still covered with timber. Later, when the Nickel Plate railroad grade was made, it gave the people work and the land upon which he settled became the finest to be found anywhere in Putnam county. Here Jacob Mullet grew to manhood, and, in 1864, he married Elizabeth Crow, who was born in the northeast part of Greensburg township in January, 1842, and who was the daughter of W. R. and Bersheba (Brower) Crow. W. R. Crow came from Columbiana county, Ohio, where he was born on April 12, 1821, and he was the son of James and Elizabeth (Morland) Crow, who settled here in 1835. James Crow was the son of Abraham and Rachael (Craven) Crow. Abraham Crow was born in 1748 and was among the early settlers of Pennsylvania. He was married in Berks county to Rachel Craven and moved to Pennsylvania in 1787, settling in Washington county. They removed to Columbiana county, Ohio, about 1815. A brother of Abraham Crow was killed in the battle of the Brandywine. Abraham and Rachel (Craven) Crow had eleven children. Abraham, Jr., married Sarah Thompson and was a pioneer settler in Greensburg township. He left numerous progeny and died in his ninety-seventh year. W. R. Crow's wife, Bersheba Brower, was born in Randolph county in 1819, and was the daughter of Frederick and Helena (Staley) Brower. Frederick Brower was born in North Carolina and was a son of Adam Brower, a native of Pennsylvania. Adam's father was the founder of the family in America. Frederick Brower was born and reared in North Carolina and there learned shoemaking and tanning. He married Nellie Staley, in Randolph county, North

Carolina. Her father was a cousin of the royal family of Germany. Frederick Brower moved to Florida and thence back to Ohio, and thence to Ft. Wayne, Indiana. After several other moves, the family came finally to Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, and entered ninety-three acres of land. He was the fourth settler in Greensburg township and when he came to Allen county he brought with him a hand-mill which he used to grind corn. In time he became the owner of four hundred and ninety-three acres and cultivated it until his death, in June, 1875. His wife died in 1889. He was the first justice of the peace in Greensburg township, and also the first trustee in that township. After Jacob Mullet's marriage, he first engaged in the butcher business, in Ottawa, and then spent a short time on a farm in Greensburg township. Subsequently, he removed to Leipsic and engaged in the butcher business for six years, after which time he moved back to Greensburg township and farmed until his death. He and his wife owned one hundred and sixty acres of land. Mrs. Jacob Mullet died in 1887, and he died in 1900. They had eight children: William G., of Greensburg township; John A., of near Continental; Amelia B., the widow of John A. Simon, the subject of this sketch; Anna Florence, the wife of William H. Wisterman, of Toledo; Mary Emma, the wife of Amos Ridenour, who lives near Wabash, Indiana; Luther H., of Toledo; Frederick, of Three Rivers, Michigan, and Everett, who lives near Butler, Indiana. After the death of his first wife, Jacob Mullet married Mrs. Sarah Shardeman, and one child was born to this marriage, Jacob Mullet, Jr.

After the marriage of the late John A. Simon and Millie Mullet they moved to a farm in Palmer township, consisting of eighty acres, which farm had been given to Mr. Simon by his father. Here he built several buildings, drained and cleared part of the land, and later acquired forty acres, which he added to his original purchase. He continued to live on this farm until his death, which occurred on November 29, 1910. He is buried in the Varner cemetery, in Greensburg township. To the late John A. Simon and wife was born one child, Leonore, in 1897, who was educated in the district schools and in the high school. She also took a course in music in Taylor University and later took a course in the Toledo Conservatory of Music. She is a splendid pianist and has also taught music. She has a splendid reputation in musical circles. Miss Simon's friends predict for her a brilliant future in the profession to which she is so keenly devoted.

Mrs. Millie Simon and her daughter Leonore still live on the farm, where Mrs. Simon is the overseer and manager. She is a woman of rare

charm and grace of manners. She has splendid business qualifications and has made a remarkable success of the farm since the death of her husband. They are the center of a wide circle of friends and are beloved by all the people of Palmer township.

The late John A. Simon was a Democrat. He served as supervisor and school director of Palmer township. He was an earnest worker and a highly honored citizen, a good husband and a kind father. The late John A. Simon belonged to the United Brethren church. Mrs. Simon and her daughter are also members of this church.

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### WILLIAM T. REMLINGER.

Putnam county, Ohio, has been especially favored in character and success of its pharmacists and druggists. Among the representatives of this profession in Putnam county is William T. Remlinger, of Ottoville, Ohio. Mr. Remlinger, as a consequence of years' experience in business for himself at Ottoville, has not only won for himself a rather large measure of success, but has, through his personal influence, stood for the best things in the community life, and is now regarded as one of the active, progressive and successful business men of Monterey township. He is one of the best citizens in this community from whatever standpoint he may be judged.

William T. Remlinger, the subject of this sketch, was born on March 23, 1873, in Pleasant Valley, Jennings township. He is the son of Andrew and Mary (Heffel) Remlinger. Andrew Remlinger was born on November 30, 1836, in Lorraine, then a part of France. His wife, who before her marriage was Mary Heffel, was born in Huron county, Ohio, on March 21, 1843. Her parents were natives of Germany. Andrew Remlinger came to the United States with his parents in 1847 and located at Milan, Erie county, Ohio. From this place the family moved to Wyandot county, where they purchased a farm and lived until 1865, when they moved to Putnam county. They purchased a farm in this county and lived there the remainder of their lives. Here, also, the paternal grandparents of William T. Remlinger lived the remainder of their lives. His grandmother died on February 14, 1877, and his grandfather, who was Sebastian Remlinger, died on November 28, 1890. Both are buried in the Ft. Jennings Catholic cemetery.

Andrew Remlinger, the father of William T., while a young man,

learned the ship-builder's trade and followed this from 1853 to 1865. During this period he was employed by the United States government as a ship-builder at Nashville, Tennessee, and at Bridgeport, Alabama. In February, 1865, he was employed in the federal service on the Tennessee river and continued in this service until the close of the Civil War. In May, 1865, he removed to Toledo, Ohio, where he worked until the fall of that year. He then removed to Fremont, Ohio, and, leaving Fremont, he went to Norwalk, Ohio, where he worked for five years in the railroad shops. Subsequently, he located on a farm in Erie county, Ohio, and, on June 19, 1866, he was married to Mary Heffel, the daughter of Jacob and Mary (Beyer) Heffel. They had five children, four of whom are now living: Louis P., who died at the age of thirty-six years; Charles P., who lives at Milan, Ohio; William T., the subject of this sketch; Cornelia, the wife of Louis H. Grote, of Ft. Jennings, and Henry, who lives on the old homestead.

Andrew Remlinger moved to Jennings township in 1871 and purchased eighty acres of land, farming this for three years, when he sold it and purchased a farm of ninety-eight acres. Later, he purchased forty acres more and lived on this farm the remainder of his days. He died in 1897, and his wife died in 1914. Andrew Remlinger was a Democrat and served as township trustee for a number of years. He and his wife were both devout Catholics.

William T. Remlinger received his education in the schools of Jackson township. He also attended Crawford College for one year and then taught school for three years. He took up the study of pharmacy in the Ohio Northern University at Ada, Ohio, in 1893, graduating from this institution on March 1, 1894. On April 25, 1894, he purchased a drug store in Ottoville, where he has been engaged in business ever since. It is one of the best drug stores in Putnam county.

William T. Remlinger was married on June 17, 1896, to Nellie G. Huysman, the daughter of Walter and Henrietta (Blockberger) Huysman. Walter Huysman was born in Holland and his wife in Saxony, Germany. Both came to the United States when they were small children. Mrs. Remlinger was born and reared in Putnam county, Ohio, and is one of a family of eight children. To William T. and Nellie G. (Huysman) Remlinger two children have been born, Walter and Harold. Walter, who was born on May 8, 1897, is a graduate of the Ottoville school and also of the Delphos high school. He entered the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, in September, 1914, and is now a student at this great institution, and Harold, who was born on May 25, 1900, is attending the Ottoville schools.



Fraternally, William T. Remlinger is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio and the Catholic Knights of Columbus. He is a Democrat and is a member of the school board of Ottoville, and is clerk and treasurer of this board, which office he has filled since 1898. Mr. Remlinger is president of the Ottoville Loan and Savings Company. He was vice-president in 1898, and became president in 1900, having served in this position ever since. Mr. Remlinger is also president of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, of Ottoville, and treasurer of Monterey township, now serving his first term. Mr. Remlinger and all the members of his family are devout members of the Catholic church.

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#### GEORGE E. ALTENBURGER.

The record of George E. Altenburger is that of a man who, by his own unaided efforts, has worked his way from a modest beginning to a position of influence in his community. His life has been one of unceasing industry and perseverance. The systematic and honest methods he has followed have won for him the unbounded confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens in Putnam county, whose interests he has ever had at heart and for which he has always labored. George E. Altenburger is a well-known business man of Ottoville, Monterey township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is interested in the real estate, loan and insurance business, and, during recent years, has built up a comfortable and growing business.

George E. Altenburger was born on August 27, 1867, in Auglaize county, Ohio. He is the son of Peter and Mary (Miller) Altenburger. Peter Altenburger was a native of Alsace, France. His wife, who before her marriage was Mary Miller, was born in Alsace and came with her parents to the United States at the age of two years. They settled at Waynesburg, Ohio, in Stark county. Peter Altenburger came to this country about 1838 and settled in Stark county. He was born in July, in 1818. His wife was born in 1830. Peter Altenburger served in the regular army of France for six years and three months. He and his wife were married in Stark county, Ohio. They were the parents of eleven children, nine of whom are living, one dying in infancy; John died at the age of fifty; Louis lives at Delphos, where he is a retired farmer; Magdeline is the wife of Joseph Krabach. They live at Wapakoneta; Joseph lives in Monterey township; Peter, Jr., lives at Bodkins, Ohio, where he is a contractor and builder; Mary is the wife of John Hohlbein, and they live in Jackson township; An-

drew lives in Cloverdale, Ohio; George E. is the subject of this sketch; Flora lives at Ottoville with George E.; William died at the age of two years; F. X. Altenburger lives at Delphos, Ohio, where he is in the real estate and insurance business.

Peter Altenburger was a farmer and followed this occupation in Stark county, Ohio. After living for some time in Stark county, he removed to Auglaize county, where he was engaged in farming until about 1877, when he removed to Van Wert county. There he followed farming until about 1898, when he retired and moved to Ottoville. He died in Ottoville in August, 1905. His wife died on April 14, 1910. Both were devoted members of the Catholic church. During the Civil War, Peter Altenburger drilled two companies at Waynesburg, Ohio, and was appointed captain, but was unable to serve.

George Altenburger received his education in the public schools of Van Wert county and in 1894 began clerking for the firm of Winkelman & Vincke, at Ottoville, where he was employed for about ten years. He opened a general insurance office at Ottoville in 1904, where he also conducted a real estate and loan business. Mr. Altenburger is a justice of the peace, notary public and secretary of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company, at Ottoville. He assisted in the organization of this company, in 1904, and has been secretary since that time. Mr. Altenburger is a director and vice-president of the Building and Loan Savings Company at Ottoville.

George E. Altenburger was married on September 29, 1897, to Dora Schlagbaum, a daughter of Bernard and Clara (Helmkamp) Schlagbaum. To this union five children were born. Alberta was born July 4, 1898. Clara was born May 2, 1900. George was born May 17, 1903. Lovena was born November 27, 1914. Watler was born December 25, 1906. Mrs. George E. Altenburger died April 4, 1907.

Bernard Schlagbaum, the father of Mrs. George E. Altenburger is a successful farmer of Monterey township. He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, February 26, 1840, and here his parents were married. They were both natives of Germany and had ten children, Bernard Schlagbaum, the father of Mrs. Altenburger, was brought to Putnam county by his parents when three years of age. They settled on a farm of eighty acres, one mile east of Ottoville where the father and sons worked to clear the timber off the land. Mrs. Altenburger's father was married on February 12, 1874, to Clara Anna Helmkamp, who was born in Hanover, Germany, July 24, 1846, her maiden name being Grave. Her parents came to the United States at an early date and settled at Delphos, Ohio. She first married Bernard Helmkamp and

they had two children. After his death, she married Mr. Schlagbaum. Mrs. Altenburger was one of five children.

George E. Altenburger is an ardent Democrat, has served as assessor of Ottoville and of Monterey township, and has discharged the duties of these offices in a most creditable manner. Fraternally, he is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio, and a member of the Eagles, at Delphos, Ohio. All of the members of the Altenburger family are devoted to the Catholic church. They are liberal contributors to the support of this church and influential in its membership.

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#### FRANK PAHL.

The man whose name forms the caption of this review is one of those men of enterprise and perseverance who has succeeded in his chosen vocation and, by careful management, has become one of the leading agriculturists, and at the same time has been of good service to the community in matters of civic welfare by advancing public interests and proving himself worthy of the trust and confidence reposed in him by the people. In consequence of his good citizenship and the high regard in which he is held by all who know him, he is entitled to recognition and commendation in a work of this nature.

Frank Pahl was born near the town of Norwalk in Huron county, Ohio, July 14, 1852, and is the son of Frank and Marie (Simons) Pahl. Frank Pahl, Sr., was born in Baden, Germany, and was quite young when he accompanied his parents to the United States where they first settled in the city of Buffalo, New York. This was in the year 1832, and after remaining in Buffalo for about twelve months, they decided to remove to Huron county, Ohio, where they engaged in farming. The mother of Frank Pahl also was born in Germany, in the town of Beyers, and immigrated to this country with her parents when she was but three years of age. Her parents settled in Seneca county, Ohio, and it was here that Frank Pahl's father and mother were married, and to them were born nine children, Elizabeth, deceased; Mary, deceased; Helen, wife of Jacob Hubert who lives near Fremont, Sandusky county, Ohio; Frank, the subject of review; Peter, who resides in the state of Michigan; Rose, the wife of Ferdinand Esker, who lives in Norwalk, Huron county, Ohio, and three other children who died in infancy.

Frank Pahl, Sr., was engaged in farming through his entire life and his wife died about the year 1857. His second marriage is recorded to Helen Simons, to which union there were born ten children, all of whom are living

except one. In the order of their birth they were as follow: Louisa, wife of Joseph Brown; Frances, the widow of Louis Lodgson; Henry; Emil; William; Mary; John; Charles; Jerome and Helen. All of these children live in or near the town of Terry, Wyandot county, Ohio, exception being made of Charles who is engaged in the undertaking business in Tiffin, Ohio, Jerome who lives near Akron, Ohio, and the last named, Helen, is deceased. Their father died on January 22, 1910.

Frank Pahl, the subject, received his early education in the township schools and on reaching maturity his father turned the farm over to him for management on the basis of one-third shares from the crops. On March 4, 1879, Frank Pahl was married to Amelia Broadman, who was born in February, 1852, the daughter of Nicholas and Gustina Broadman, both of whom were natives of Germany and from where they came to this country with their respective parents when they were very young. They grew to maturity in Huron county and were married there, also started housekeeping, but, at a later date, decided to move to Wyandot, where they engaged in farming until the time of their deaths.

Soon after their marriage Frank Pahl and wife left Huron county and came to Putnam county, Ohio, where in the spring of 1893, he purchased a farm consisting of one hundred acres of partly cleared land in section 36 of Monterey township, and has made this place his permanent home. When Frank Pahl first settled on this farm, it was not in very good condition for the raising of crops and besides required considerable clearing. After cutting a part of the timber, ditching and systematically using drain tile, this farm has become highly productive and profitable, and is now under the management of one of his sons who farms it successfully on shares. After spending a great many years on the home place, Mr. Pahl decided to retire from active farm life and purchased two lots in the town of Ottoville, this county, upon which he has erected a very substantial and comfortable dwelling where he and his wife make their present home, retaining their interest in the farm. To Frank and Amelia (Broadman) Pahl have been born eight children, six of whom are living. They are Ralph, who lives on the homestead in Monterey township and who was married to Addie Wright, to whom were born two children, Leroy and Lyle; Dora, the wife of Joseph Bauman, who lives in Jennings township, and who have three living children, Hilda, Mersella, and Rosalie; Lawrence who died at the age of six years and two others that died in infancy; William, who married Elizabeth Fosel who had one daughter by this marriage. William's first wife died and he was married a second time to Rosa Schectal and they have two sons. William Pahl

and family now reside in Michigan; Tillie, the wife of Edward Kramer, who lives in Ottoville and where he is engaged in the lumber business. To them were born four children, Roman, Permillia, Welma and Norval; Clarence was married to Phine Carder and they live in Delphos, Ohio. Two children were born to them.

Mr. Pahl has always taken a keen interest in the welfare of the community and at all times stands for progressive legislation to the benefit of the commonwealth of the state of Ohio. He is prominently identified with the Democratic ticket in Putnam county and has served the people of his township as trustee for six years. He is also greatly interested in matters pertaining to education and for twenty-six years has served as director on the school board and is the oldest member of that board. The family are devout members of the Catholic church in Ottoville, to which they give their earnest support and contribute liberally. Personally, Mr. Pahl is a man held in the highest respect among his fellow men and has a reputation for being absolutely fair in all of his dealings. He is a man of kindly disposition, pleasant to all classes, honest and thoroughly trustworthy, and is much admired by all who know him.

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#### ERNEST BURILL.

One of the most enterprising of the younger generation of farmers in Putnam county who has worked diligently and whose future should be successful, if hard work and intelligence can make it so, is Ernest Burill. Ernest Burill has been a close student of everything that pertains to his work on the farm and from the beginning of his career has met with gratifying success. Judging from his past record, he will undoubtedly achieve much in future years and take his place among the leading farmers of Putnam county.

Ernest Burill was born on November 29, 1888, at Pleasant Bend, Henry county, Ohio. He is the son of Henry and Katherine (Morris) Burill, an account of whose lives is given elsewhere in this volume.

Ernest Burill was educated in the Palmer township schools and lived on the farm until his marriage, April 23, 1911, to Ruth Baker, who is the daughter of Fred and Minnie (Engle) Baker. Fred Baker was born in Henry county, Ohio, and died in May, 1904, at the age of thirty-three years. His wife was born in Defiance county, Ohio, and after their marriage, Fred Baker and wife moved to a farm in Henry county near Holgate, Ohio. Later, they moved to Holgate, Ohio, where he engaged in the liquor business. He

continued in this business until his death. His wife still survives and lives in Holgate, Ohio. She was married a second time to Frank M. Smith. Fred Baker was not a member of any lodge and had held no public offices. He was a member of the German Reformed church. Fred and Minnie Baker had three children, Emma, William and Ruth, the wife of Mr. Burill; Emma married John Aden and lives at Holgate, Ohio, and William also lives at Holgate.

After his marriage, Mr. Burill moved to a farm in Palmer township, where he worked by the year for Benjamin F. Shafer. Later, he moved to Holgate, Ohio, and was employed in the tile-mill there. Subsequently, he moved to a forty-acre tract of land in section 6, of Palmer township, one-half mile west of his father's homestead farm, which forty acres was later deeded to him by his father. He came to this farm on December 1, 1914, cleared a portion of it and is contemplating the erection of a home. The farm is well located and consists of good soil.

Ernest Burill is an ardent farmer. He is not a member of any lodge and has held no offices. Mr. Burill is identified with the Democratic party, but has never been active in its councils. He and his wife are members of the German Reformed church. Ernest is a progressive young farmer, a hard worker, congenial and well-liked by the people of his neighborhood. He is a young man who deserves special recognition in a work of this character.

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#### ROBERT BENNETT LAYTON.

One of the best-known and most enterprising of the younger farmers of Putnam county, Ohio, and Perry township, is Robert Bennett Layton, now in the very prime of life and usefulness. His influence as an honorable and upright citizen is productive of much good upon all with whom he comes in contact. His past success gives assurance of something yet to come. He is evidently destined to continue a potent factor for substantial good for many years to come. Mr. Layton owns splendid farming land in Perry township, which he operates in a manner that proves that he is fully acquainted with twentieth-century methods of farming.

Robert Bennett Layton was born in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, on January 16, 1870. He is the son of John Rush and Hannah Isabel (Bennett) Layton.

John Rush Layton, father of Robert B., died in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, February 15, 1914. He was at one time president of the Commercial Na-



ROBERT B. LAYTON.





tional Bank, of Upper Sandusky. John R. Layton was a native of Pennsylvania, having been born in Bedford county on August 13, 1831. His parents were Moses B. and Susan (Rolin) Layton. His father was of English and Scottish extraction and was a native of Bedford county, Pennsylvania, where he was reared on a farm. He married Susan Rolin, and in 1832 emigrated to Knox county, remaining there for almost two years. About 1834 he moved to Erie county and rented a farm. He followed farming until in 1835, when his wife died. Putting his four children into homes in Sandusky, he went to Mt. Vernon, Ohio, and engaged in the butcher business until in 1840, when he went to Marion, Ohio, and purchased a farm, on which he remained until 1851, when he sold out and again broke up house-keeping. Then, for five years, he was engaged in buying and shipping live stock. Coming to Upper Sandusky, he purchased a home and for a time conducted a hotel at that place. He was married again about this time, when he purchased a farm west of Upper Sandusky. This place he operated until 1860, when he sold it to his son, John Rush Layton, but for a year longer he continued to make it his home. In the fall of 1861, feeling that he was needed in the military service of his country, he enlisted in the Fifteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, as a private. He was later made wagon master and served in that position for one year, when, on account of ill health, he was mustered out of service. A few months later, however, he re-enlisted, this time in the Sixty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He served in Virginia as ambulance master. After the battle of Gettysburg he was detailed to transport the wounded to Jersey City, New Jersey. Not long afterward, in 1864, he received an honorable discharge and returned to Ohio, making his home, as before, with John R. Layton, his son. The following year he went to Putnam county, where he purchased a farm, on which place he passed the remainder of his days. While on a trip through Pennsylvania, September 29, 1889, he was smothered by gas in his room in a hotel. At the time of his death he was eighty-two years old. His remains were brought back to his Ohio home for interment. He was an active man, self-made, and though he made money, he lived fully up to his earnings. He was a Republican, although not active in party matters, and was a member of the Christian church. The first wife of Mr. Layton and the mother of John Rush Layton was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, and died in Erie county, at the age of twenty-five as the result of a severe cold. Four children were born to Moses B. and Susan Layton, as follow: Mary, who married a Mr. Davis; Isabelle, who died in 1863; John R., the father of Robert B., and Matilda, a resident of Putnam county.

John Rush Layton was but five years of age when his mother died. He went to live with a man by the name of Willis, at Sandusky, in whose family he remained for nearly two years, when his father took him to Mt. Vernon, where he remained until the spring of 1840, at which time he went to Indiana, locating near Covington, and the following winter chopped cordwood for fifty cents a day. The next spring he went to Illinois and for eight years rented a farm in Vermilion county, where he was fairly successful, and by hard toil and rigid economy managed to save twenty-five hundred dollars. In December, 1859, he returned to Ohio and purchased his father's farm of one hundred and sixty-five acres, adjoining the corporation of Upper Sandusky. As his father did not have the farm entirely paid for, John Rush Layton was obliged to go in debt over three thousand dollars. He remained on this place and, by persistent effort, was able to pay off the indebtedness. When his farm was cleared of this incumbrance he branched out into the live stock business, which he not only bought, sold and shipped at dicerent times, but also bought considerable wool. He built an elevator and handled grain for twenty-five years, during all of which transactions he maintained an active supervision of his farm interests. He was one of the stockholders and organizers in the Ohio Thresher and Engine Company. Later he disposed of his stock in this company, and during the gas boom in his neighborhood sold ninety-seven acres of his land for two hundred dollars an acre, and afterward bought it back for seventy-five dollars an acre. He has also purchased other agricultural property, so that he now owns one hundred and ninety acres, comprising the home farm, one hundred and sixty acres west of the first tract and two hundred and fifty acres in Putnam county.

On January 1, 1895, John Rush Layton assisted in the organization of the Commercial Bank, a private banking institution of Upper Sandusky. On July 5, 1900, the institution was nationalized and opened for business under the name of the Commercial National Bank. Mr. Layton had for three years served as president of the old bank, and after the reorganization retained the position until January 8, 1902, at which time he tendered his resignation, that he might the better devote his time to private matters. When the old Wyandot Bank failed, Mr. Layton was appointed receiver and satisfactorily performed the onerous duties of that position. It required about six years to close up the affairs of the defunct bank.

John Rush Layton was married on January 1, 1861, to Hannah I. Bennett, of Upper Sandusky. She was born on August 25, 1844, and was the daughter of David and Phoebe Bennett. This union was a happy one and was blessed by ten children: Laura, deceased, who married Milton M. Hol-

lanshean; John Brough, who is a merchant at Marion; Alonzo, who lives at Jefferson; Charles Henry, deceased, who was a bookkeeper in the Commercial National Bank at Upper Sandusky; Hugh Delbert, of Upper Sandusky; Robert Bennett, the subject of this sketch; Phoebe Grace, who married Arlington E. Coen, of Bowling Green, Ohio; Moses Bishop, who lives at Rathdrum, Idaho; Walter Earl, deceased, who attended Ohio Wesleyan University, and Mrs. Susie Blanche Gates, who lives at Detroit, Michigan.

Mrs. Hannah I. Layton survives her husband and lives in Upper Sandusky. She and her two daughters and two of her sons are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics, John Rush Layton was a Republican, although he never took an active part in politics. The Layton family are all popular among their acquaintances. John Rush Layton truly obtained an enviable standing among his business associates. He was the architect of his own fortune and builded wisely and well. The success which crowned his efforts was richly deserved.

Educated in the Upper Sandusky schools, which course was supplemented by a course in the high school of Upper Sandusky, Robert B. Layton moved, December 17, 1908, from his home place in Upper Sandusky to Perry township, Putnam county, where his father had acquired an extensive tract of land close to and adjoining the Blanchard river in section 14. Here Robert B. Layton has continued to reside. Subsequently he acquired land of his own and now owns and rents two hundred and forty-four acres. He follows general farming. At the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, when the call came for volunteers, Robert B. Layton was one of the first to respond. He served during the term of his enlistment in a creditable manner.

Robert B. Layton is active not only in agriculture but in the business affairs of the community. He is president of the Farmers Mutual Telephone Company and was recently appointed by Governor Willis as county district tax assessor of Putnam county. This was a deserved honor in consideration of the efforts of Mr. Layton in behalf of the success of the Republican party.

On September 14, 1901, Robert B. Layton was married, in Greenville, Ohio, to Etta Elizabeth Kilgore, who was born in Bayonne, New Jersey, on March 24, 1881, and who is the daughter of Isaac Chapman and Katherine Ann (Harrison) Kilgore, the former of whom was born on March 4, 1849, in Virginia, and the latter born on January 8, 1861, in Bayonne, New Jersey. Both are still living. They were the parents of five children, Frederick Chapman, Bessie May, Etta Elizabeth, Harrison Morton and Leo Robert. Mr. and Mrs. Layton have no children.

Robert B. Layton is well known as a congenial, progressive and intel-

ligent citizen of Putnam county. He is socially agreeable and is well liked by the people about him, where he is well known. He stands high in the business and social life of the community, and has a fine farm, well located, which shows signs of careful farming. Mr. Layton's business address is at Continental, Ohio, where his plans contemplate moving his residence and renting out his farm.

Mr. Layton is identified with the Republican party, he takes an active and prominent interest in the affairs of this party, and though he is not a member of any church, he is affiliated with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, No. 147. He is also a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, No. 520, of which he has served as worshipful master in 1914. He also served as worthy patron in the Order of the Eastern Star, from 1912 until 1914, and is a member of Chapter 115, Council 69. He has taken the sixteenth degree of Scottish Rite Masonry and expects to complete the remaining degrees up to the thirty-second.

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#### DAVID G. MILLER.

A day's ride in Putnam county, Ohio, reveals, even to the casual observer, a splendid stretch of farming country. Whether the farms be large or small, there is a marked uniformity of excellence, not only in the land values, but also in the character of the industries promoted, and yet, the close observer will see that this prosperous condition is not accidental. He knows that it is the fruit of brawn and brain, the result of painstaking toil extending through the years, and thought concentrated upon one object—success. To some, the struggle has meant bitter disappointment, but others there are who have refused to recognize obstacles, who have shown their spirit to be mightier than all conditions. But it has taken them all to make up the life of each community. Therefore we are interested in every pioneer who has made his contribution to the prosperity of Putnam county. Among these, David G. Miller claims our attention, not only because of his success as a farmer, but because he merited the esteem of his fellow men.

Two years after the birth of David G. Miller, which occurred on June 9, 1868, his mother, Mary (Vogt) Miller became a widow through the death of her husband, Christ Miller. Their home was then in Allen county, Ohio. After the marriage of his mother, some time later, to Aaron Huysman, the

family moved to Putnam county, selecting Monterey township for their future home. At this time, David was about four years old.

Fortunately, he had three brothers older than himself, these being the sons of Christ and Mary Miller. Under the guidance of a devoted mother, they grew to manhood, and all are living today, John H. at Bossil, Fairfield county; Adams, a farmer, in Van Wert county, and Jacob near Continental, Ohio.

The life of David G. Miller has not been different in outward circumstance to that of many of his friends and neighbors, but who shall say that the inner life has not been rich and varied? Ambitious to learn all that the schools in his vicinity were able to give him, he received a common school education, working on his father's farm when not attending school. Reaching the mature age of twenty-six, he started out for himself, acquiring a tract of well-improved land, consisting of forty acres, in section 26, about two and one-half miles southwest of Ottoville. It was 1905 when he began an independent career, by marrying Miss Mary Hanefeld, the wedding taking place on January 19.

The bride was a daughter of John D. and Sophina (Kirchoff) Hanefeld, both of whom were natives of Germany. John Hanefeld came to the United States with his parents when he was a little fellow of eight summers, and they all settled on a farm in Jennings township. Mrs. Hanefeld was twenty-two when she left Germany and came to this country, living for a while after her arrival in New York city. Preferring country life to the city, the family later removed to Ft. Jennings where the young woman met and married John Hanefeld. Of the nine children, who blessed their home, four only are living. These are Mrs. David G. Miller; John, who lives near Continental; Louis and Paul, who live at home. Henry died when eleven years of age, and four others passed away in infancy. Both parents are living and are still interested in their farm in Jackson township.

Bertha S. Miller is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David G. Miller, and also the only child. She was born on December 29, 1905, and is attending school near their attractive country home.

Mr. Miller, in recent years, has given particular attention to the raising of full-blooded Light Brahma chickens and a splendid grade of stock. So successful has he been that he is often sought by his neighbors that they may profit by his advice and experience. Mr. Miller has always cast his lot with the Republican party. He is a member of the Presbyterian church of Delphos, while his wife still retains her membership in the Lutheran church of Ft. Jennings.

Mr. Miller is the kind of man that every community needs. His life has not been one spent in the world's broad thoroughfares, nor has he won laurels on the field of battle, but each day's task has been performed with courage and perseverance and in a kindly spirit, and who shall say that this is not success?

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### HENRY ERNST.

It cannot be other than interesting to note, in the series of personal sketches appearing in this work, the varying conditions that have compassed those whose careers are here outlined, and thus it has been made in each case to throw well-focused light on the individuality and to bring to proper perspective the scheme of each career. Each man who strives to fill his part in connection with human life and human activities, deserves recognition, whatever may be his field of endeavor. It is the function of works of this nature to perpetuate for future generations an authentic record of those represented in its pages and the value of such publications is certain to be cumulative for all time to come, showing forth the individual and specific accomplishments of each community. Henry Ernst, the subject of this sketch, is a well-known merchant of Ottoville.

Henry Ernst was born on February 27, 1859, in Huron county, Ohio, the son of William and Catherine (Leis) Ernst. William Ernst was a native of Westphalia, Prussia, and his wife was born in Bavaria. They were married in New York city. William Ernst came to the United States in 1852, and worked in New York for a time. After his marriage, he and his wife came west to Ohio, settling in Huron county. Ten children were born to them, five sons and five daughters. Six are now living, Kate, the wife of Joseph Fritz, of Huron county; Sophia, the wife of John Miller, also of Huron county; Margaret, the wife of Kinney Cole, of near Norwalk, Huron county, Ohio; Henry, the subject of this sketch; Anthony, who lives in San Francisco, California, and Peter, who lives in Michigan. After coming to Ohio, William Ernst was a farmer and followed this occupation the remainder of his life. He died on November 14, 1893, and his wife died on October 25, 1880.

Henry Ernst received a common school education. He learned the brickmaker's trade in 1883, and came to Ottoville, where he was foreman of a brick yard for two years. During this period, he made brick for the Catholic church. He began life for himself in 1886 and engaged in the

manufacture of brick, which he continued for several years. In connection with this industry, he was also engaged in farming during this period and for two years was engaged in making butter. He purchased an interest in the J. J. Miller Company, in 1894, which operates the largest general store in Ottoville.

Henry Ernst was married on November 24, 1885, to Theresia Wannemacher, the daughter of Peter and Agnes (Neher) Wannemacher, both natives of Wurtemberg, Germany. They came to Putnam county in 1854, where they settled on a farm. Prior to their coming to Putnam county, they lived for a short time in Cincinnati. Peter Wannemacher operated a saw-mill and also owned a boat on the canal, which ran between Cincinnati and Toledo, Ohio. He died on October 17, 1912, and his wife died on January 19, 1892.

To Henry and Theresia (Wannemacher) Ernst, eleven children have been born, only two of whom are now living. Nine of them died in infancy. The two living children are Mary W., who is a graduate of Notre Dame University and lives at home, and Albina S., who graduated from the high school at Ottoville and lives at home.

Mr. Ernst is a Democrat and he and his family are members of the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Ottoville. Mr. Ernst is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio.

Mr. Ernst has made a splendid success of his business at Ottoville, which has been founded upon honesty and square dealings with his patrons. He is highly respected in the community and honored for his sterling, upright character.

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### JOHN J. MILLER.

In the early days, the Middle West was often a tempting field to energetic, ambitious, strong-minded men, and Ohio was filled with them during the time she was struggling to a respectable position in the sisterhood of states. There was a fascination in the broad fields of great promise which this new region presented to activity that attracted many men and induced them to brave the discomforts of early life for the pleasure and gratification of constructing their homes and fortunes in their own way and after their own methods. It is this class of men more than any other who gives shape, direction and character to the business of a community. John J. Miller, during a long period of years, has been one of the substantial and prominent

citizens of Putnam county. Although, perhaps not entitled to rank as a pioneer, Mr. Miller has lived here for many years and has become a power in the commercial and business life of Ottoville and vicinity.

John J. Miller was born at Fremont, Ohio, on April 14, 1854. He is the son of John and Johanna (Flatz) Miller, the former of whom was born on June 14, 1820, in Bavaria, and the latter born in 1828, in Tyrol, Austria. The father came to America in 1848 and first settled in Pennsylvania, where he remained for one year. He then moved to Fremont, in Sandusky county, Ohio, and, being a tailor by trade, engaged in that business. He was married in Fremont, in 1853, to Johanna Flatz and to them were born seven children, six of whom are now living, John J., the eldest, who is the subject of this sketch; Jane, deceased; Anna, the wife of Andrew Kehres, of Monett, Missouri; Edward, who lives at Celina, Ohio; George, who is a manufacturer of tile and a farmer near Ottoville; Josephine, who is the wife of Joseph Breckner, of Monterey township; Katherine, who is unmarried and lives at Delphos, Ohio.

John Miller, the father of John J., moved to Putnam county in 1862, and bought a farm near Ottoville, Monterey township. Here he spent the remainder of his days and was a very successful farmer. He was the owner of two hundred and forty acres of as good land as there was to be found in Putnam county. He was a devoted member of the Catholic church and died March 19, 1902. His wife died in August, 1906.

John J. Miller, the subject of this sketch, received a good common school education in the public schools of Putnam county. Mr. Miller was married to Margaret Lauer, a daughter of Alexander and Elizabeth (Reitze) Lauer, both born in Lorraine, Germany, and both of whom came to the United States in 1870, locating in Ottoville. Alexander Lauer was a farmer and followed this occupation until 1908, when he retired. He died on January 16, 1913, and his wife died on January 23, 1908. To John J. and Margaret (Lauer) Miller, seven children have been born, all of whom are living, Elizabeth, the wife of Walter Mersman, of Celina, Ohio; Alexander, who assists in the store at Ottoville; Mary, the wife of Dr. J. F. Ockuly, of Ottoville; Edward, who manages the J. J. Miller & Company branch store at Kalida; Catherine, Margaret and Rudolph, all at home.

John J. Miller followed farming, until about 1890, when he began manufacturing tile, and was in this business for seven years. Upon selling his interest in this business, he purchased the Ottoville hotel and was proprietor of this hotel for one and one-half years, when he sold the hotel and went into the mercantile business. This was about eighteen years ago, and the business



was conducted under the firm name of J. J. Miller & Company. The company was incorporated under this name in 1911 and they now operate a branch store at Kalida. The store at Ottoville is the largest mercantile store in Putnam county. Mr. Miller is vice-president of the Ottoville Bank Company, a stockholder in the Griffis Produce Company, of Ottoville, and in many other ways is closely identified with the business life of that community.

John J. Miller is an ardent Democrat, but has never been especially active in political affairs and has never held office. All of the members of the Miller family are devotedly attached to the Catholic church and are liberal contributors to its support.

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#### GERHARD H. OTTE.

The great English poet, Pope, has said that the proper study of mankind is man. No truer statement was ever made. To be able to trace one's ancestry back to past generations, and find that they have occupied high and honorable positions in the history of their country, is a source of genuine satisfaction, and deep gratification. To be the son of a man who is identified with the pioneer life of a community and who, during his lifetime, figured prominently in pioneer affairs, is an honor of no mean importance. The father of Gerhard H. Otte was one of the first settlers in Monterey township, and in his day one of the influential citizens of this township. Gerhard H. Otte is descended from a long line of illustrious ancestors, who have been influential on two continents. Mr. Otte's grandfather and father both were named Gerhard H., and Mr. Otte himself has a son named Gerhard.

Gerhard H. Otte was born on October 8, 1870, in Ottoville, Ohio. He is the son of Gerhard H. and Anna (Wurst) Otte.

The father of Gerhard H. Otte, the subject of this sketch, was a prominent citizen of Ottoville, who was born on May 13, 1834, on his father's farm, near Osnabruck, Germany. His father, also named Gerhard, was the owner of fifty-six acres of land in Hanover, which had been held by the Otte family for many generations, and on which the grandfather of Gerhard H., the subject of this sketch, passed all his life. He married Agnes Barlag, and they had eight children, only two of whom ever came to America. They were Joseph and Gerhard H., the father of the subject of this sketch. The grandfather lived to be eighty-three years old.

Gerhard H. Otte was educated in Germany, and at the age of sixteen years, he sailed from Bremen, making a tedious voyage of eight weeks and

three days, finally landing in New York in June, 1851. From New York city he went to Albany by a Hudson river steamer, in company with his second cousin, Henry Esch, who later located in Ottawa, and still later returned to Germany. From Albany, New York, Mr. Otte, the father of our subject, went to Buffalo, by way of the Erie canal, and then by Lake Erie to Erie, Pennsylvania, thence by canal to Beaver, Pennsylvania, and by the Ohio river to Cincinnati. Finally, he reached section 10, at Delphos, on the Miami & Erie canal. A few days later he came to Ottoville, and in the latter part of the year settled on section 16, in Monterey township. He first engaged in driving an ox-team, hauling logs. He was not accustomed to the climate and was soon taken with a fever and ague and was compelled to retire to Delphos. As soon as he recovered, he began working in a cooper shop at that place. He learned the trade, and followed it for nine years, and then returned to Ottoville, where, in 1860, he started a mercantile business, and became one of the first merchants in that town. W. H. Beckman, alone, having preceded him. Mr. Otte at once formed a partnership with Mathias Winkleman, but in 1887, the latter sold his interest in the business, and Mr. Otte held control until 1891, when he sold out and retired, after an experience of more than thirty years. Mr. Otte was a Democrat and was appointed the second postmaster of Ottoville by President Buchanan; his partner, Mr. Winkleman, having been the first. After Mr. Winkleman's death, Mr. Otte served the unexpired term, about 1880 was reappointed and held the office until 1893. He was an honored and trusted citizen of this locality for thirty years, having filled the office of township treasurer, and other minor offices. He was a notary public during the war, and a member of the home guards, stationed at Camp Lucas, Ohio. Mr. Otte was a devout Catholic. He was a member of the building committee, when the church at Ottoville was erected. Gerhard H. Otte, Sr., was married to Anna Wurst, who was born in 1842, in Crawford county, Ohio. She was the daughter of Joseph and Anna (Keever) Wurst, of Bavaria, Germany, who were early settlers in Ohio. To Gerhard H. and Anna (Wurst) Otte eleven children were born, Joseph G. married and lives in Ottoville; John died in infancy; Anna A. married John Scherer, and lived at Defiance. She is now deceased; Mary C. is the widow of Edward Wannemacher, who died in 1899. She has two daughters, and they live in Ottoville; Gerhard H. is the subject of this sketch; Henry F. died on May 26, 1907; Elizabeth E. is the wife of Charles Rechart. They live in Jackson township; Louise is the wife of Charles Huffart. They live at Toledo, Ohio; Ferdinand W. is deceased; Leo J. lives at Toledo, and William M. lives in Ottoville.

Gerhard H. Otte, Sr., carried on his general store up to the time of his death, which occurred on December 22, 1904. His daughters conducted a millinery shop, connected with the store. Mr. Otte's wife, the mother of the subject of this sketch, died on March 26, 1891.

After the death of the father, Gerhard H. Otte, the subject of this sketch, and his sisters, carried on the father's store until 1907, when they sold out. Gerhard H. then entered business in association with his brother, Leo, in the hotel at Ottoville. This partnership continued about four years, when Leo sold out to Gerhard, and the latter is now running the hotel alone.

Gerhard H. Otte was married on April 15, 1907, to Barbara Thithoff, the daughter of John and Mary (Reiger) Thithoff. John Thithoff was a native of Germany. His wife, Mary (Reiger) Thithoff, was born in Ohio. To Gerhard H. and Barbara (Thithoff) Otte there have been six children, Marcille, Eulitte, Alvera, Elmer, Henry and Gerhard W.

The Otte family are all members of the Catholic church, and Mr. Otte is a Democrat. He has spent his entire life in Ottoville, and is a highly respected and honored citizen.

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#### HENRY WANNEMACHER.

The best title one can establish to the high and generous esteem of an intelligent community is a protracted and honorable residence therein. The subject of this review is one of the best-known and most highly esteemed men of Putnam county, has resided in this locality all his life and his career has been a most commendable one in every respect, well deserving of being perpetuated on the pages of a historical work of this nature. Like his sterling father before him, he has been a man of well-defined purpose and never failed to carry to successful completion any work of enterprise to which he addressed himself.

Henry Wannemacher was born in Monterey township, Putnam county, Ohio, on February 27, 1859, and is a son of Joseph and Martha (Sterns) Wannemacher, whose life record will be found elsewhere in this volume under the caption "John H. Wannemacher," brother of the subject of this sketch. Henry Wannemacher's early life was spent under the parental roof and he received his education in the neighboring township schools. At the age of twenty-three he was married to Emma Kalt, which event occurred on June 13, 1882. Emma Kalt was the daughter of John and Mary (Walker) Kalt, the former was born in Baden, Germany, on June 3, 1830, and came

to this country alone at the age of nineteen years, where he first located in Allen county, Ohio, and secured employment with the canal company. After working around here a while, he decided to go to California, where he remained about three years and then returned to Allen county. Here he engaged in farming for about two years, then, in 1866, he moved to Delphos, Ohio, and established himself in the grocery business, which he conducted successfully for about thirteen years. In the year 1878 he moved to Putnam county and lived on the farm in Monterey township, which he had purchased about two years prior to the time he discontinued the grocery business. He spent the most of his life at farming and died on April 29, 1910. His wife came to this country with her parents when about one year old and they settled in Seneca county, Ohio, and it was in the town of New Riegel, Seneca county, that they were wedded. The wife and mother of his children survived until March 11, 1912, and both father and mother are buried at Ottoville, Putnam county. To them were born seven children, William, who lived in Missouri until his death, February 5, 1909; Emma, subject's wife; Charles, who lives in Continental; Mary, the wife of Joseph Imber, who lives in Delphos, Ohio; Frank, who lives in Monterey township; John and Anna (twins), the former living in Payne, Ohio, and the latter the wife of Lou Euchenhofer, who resides in Denver, Colorado.

Soon after Henry Wannemacher's marriage, he settled on the one-hundred-sixty-acre farm, which he owned previously and which lies about three-quarters of a mile west of the town of Ottoville. On this place he made many improvements, including the erection of a splendid barn building and his residence, which is modern in every respect. The general appearance of the place indicated that deep interest has been shown by the owner and that his success, as a farmer, is the result of untiring energy and good management. In addition to this farm, he has also acquired farm properties in other localities, consisting of thirty-nine acres in Van Wert county, this state, and two acres in the town of Ottoville, this county, which he owns, jointly, with his brother, John H. Wannemacher, also a town lot with buildings in Ottoville proper. Mr. Wannemacher devotes his entire time and attention to general farming, and his production of grain and other commodities is done at a good profit.

Mr. Wannemacher has always been identified with the Democratic party and at one time was appointed to the office of land appraiser. While he has not been aggressively engaged in politics, yet he takes considerable interest in civic welfare and is ever ready to lend a helping hand to the furtherance of any good cause for the benefit of the community. He is a member of the

Putnam county board of agriculture and takes great interest in matters pertaining to improved methods of farming and the subject of intensive cultivation of the soil by scientific methods. He is a member of the Catholic church, to which he lends his support. Personally, he is a man that stands high in the community in which he lives, is progressive and at all times ready and willing to consider meritorious enterprises for the material advancement of his county, and for the intellectual, social and moral good of the people. He enjoys the hearty confidence and good will of all who know him and is well worthy of the respect and admiration of his fellow men.

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#### MICHAEL WILLIAMS.

Ohio has been especially honored in the character and career of her farmers. In every section have been found men born to leadership in agriculture and who have dominated their communities because of their superior intelligence, natural endowments and force of character. It is always profitable to study such lives, weigh their motives and hold up their achievements as incentive to greater activity and higher excellence on the part of others. These reflections are suggested by the career of Michael Williams, who has forged to the front ranks of the farmers of Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, and who, for many years, has been one of the leading farmers in this section of Putnam county. Mr. Williams's success has been attained by normal methods and means, a determined application of mental and physical resources along well-defined lines.

Michael Williams was born on October 9, 1865, in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Michael and Mary Ann (Frankart) Williams, the former of whom, as well as the latter, were born in Germany. They came to America and settled in Seneca county, Ohio, where they engaged in farming. They farmed in Seneca county for a number of years and then moved to Putnam county, Ohio, on a farm of eighty acres. Later they increased the acreage to one hundred and twenty. To them were born ten children, Tillie, deceased; John; Jacob; Peter; Mary; Michael; Catherine; Emma; Joseph, deceased, and Mary, deceased. Michael Williams died in Palmer township. Mrs. Mary Ann (Frankhart) Williams died at Landick, Ohio. Michael Williams was township treasurer for a number of years. He was a stanch Democrat, and a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic church. The family were also members of this church.

Michael Williams was educated in Palmer township and, during his

early life, lived on his father's farm. He worked out by the month before his marriage. Mr. Williams was married on June 5, 1886, to Frances Snyder, the daughter of Joseph and Christina (Mueller) Snyder. Joseph and Christina Snyder were natives of Virginia, moving from Virginia to Franklin county, Ohio, where they settled on a farm. After living in Franklin county for some time, they came to Putnam county, Ohio, and lived on a farm in Palmer township. Mrs. Christina (Mueller) Snyder died at the age of eighty-two years on January 7, 1900. Her husband is still surviving and lives with his daughter, Mrs. J. M. Frankart, of Palmer township. He is ninety-six years old. He was a soldier in the Civil War and served in the Twenty-second Regiment, Kentucky Regulars, enlisting at Covington, Kentucky, and serving eleven months. He was married in Virginia. Joseph and Christina Snyder were the parents of nine children, William, Nicholas, George and Mary are deceased. Caroline, Catherine, Rebecca, Frances and James are still living.

After his marriage, Michael Williams moved to a farm in section 10, of Palmer township. This farm originally consisted of twenty acres, but was later increased to forty acres. In the meantime, Mr. Williams bought forty acres more in section 16, making a total of eighty acres. He has erected all the present buildings on the farm and cleared and drained the land and otherwise improved it.

To Michael and Frances (Snyder) Williams one child has been born, Earl M., on July 13, 1887. He married Clara Russett, daughter of Joseph and Catherine Russett, of Palmer township. They have two children, Arlie, born on February 28, 1909, and Hilda, on December 11, 1914. Earl was educated in the township schools and lives with his father. He is a farmer and operates the home farm.

Michael Williams is more or less retired, but still lives on the farm. He is treasurer of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Association. He was a ditch contractor and followed this business in connection with general farming until 1899, when he was injured by falling from the roof of his barn, which was then being built; he was also township ditch supervisor for ten years and has built many ditches in Putnam county, since which time he has given up ditch contracting. The greater part of his time is devoted to overseeing the farm, since his injury rather incapacitates him for the heavier work. He is very alert, mentally, and is much admired for his intelligence and broad view of all public questions. Michael Williams is a man of excellent habits and bears a high reputation in the community in which he lives for honesty and integrity. He is a man of sound business principles and of

decidedly progressive ideas. He is congenial in manner, a kind father and thoroughly devoted to domestic life.

Michael Williams is a member of the St. Nicholas's Catholic church at Miller City. All of the members of the family are affiliated with this church.

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### LADIS RED.

It will always be a mark of distinction to have served in the United States army during the Philippine War. In fact, the soldier of any war will receive attention, no matter where he goes, if he but make himself known. Ladis Red, the subject of this sketch, and a well-known contractor and builder of Gilboa, Putnam county, Ohio, now living, however, at Ottoville, performed brilliant service as a soldier in the United States army during the Philippine War. He enlisted in the United States army as a private, and was mustered out at the end of his term of enlistment as a sergeant.

Ladis Red was born near Gilboa, Putnam county, Ohio, on November 22, 1876. He is the son of John and Elizabeth (Mitchell) Red, the former of whom was born in Austria-Hungary, the latter of whom was a native of Putnam county. John Red came to the United States in 1860, and settled at Gilboa, Putnam county. He was a watchmaker by trade, and followed this trade for about three years at Gilboa. He then moved to a farm three miles north of Gilboa, and farmed there until 1881, when he moved to Jackson township, Putnam county and purchased a farm of one hundred acres. He operated this farm until 1893, when he moved to Montana and purchased a store. He operated a general mercantile store and clock and watch repair shop until 1903, when he moved to Alabama. He lived in Alabama for about five years where he followed farming. Returning to Putnam county, he died in March, 1913. His wife is still living on the old homestead. They had five children, three of whom are living: Alvina is the wife of Dan Jones, who is living near Deshler, Ohio; Malinda died in infancy and Malisa died at the age of twenty-two years. She was the wife of George Emmons; Louis lives near Deshler and Ladis is the subject of this sketch.

Ladis Red received a common school education, leaving home at the age of thirteen. Since that time he made his own way in the world. He enlisted at Lima, Ohio, in 1899, in the Twenty-second Regiment United States Infantry, and served in the Luzon Islands and the Philippines for three years. He was a private and a non-commissioned officer, having become a sergeant before his enlistment expired. Mr. Red received his discharge at Fort Crook,

Nebraska, on July 8, 1902. He then returned to Putnam county on July 10, and followed contracting work for about five years. During this time, he built many sewers in this part of the country. He then farmed for two years in Putnam county, and then went into the restaurant business at Kalida, when, after eighteen months, he returned to contracting, and building sewers, at which he worked for about a year. After that, Mr. Red removed to Nebraska, visiting South Dakota and many western states, where he worked for thirteen months. While in the West, he followed carpenter work. Returning to Putnam county in 1911, he settled at Ottoville, where he worked at the carpenter trade. He has followed contracting and building since his last return to Putnam county.

Ladis Red was married on July 16, 1902, to Orvia Anna Tuma, of Omaha, Nebraska. She was the daughter of Joseph Tuma and wife, the former of whom was a native of Germany, and the latter of whom was a native of Holland. Both died in Nebraska. To Ladis and Orvia Anna (Tuma) Red two children have been born, Helen Elizabeth and Marie, both of whom are living at home.

Ladis Red is a highly respected citizen of Monterey township, Putnam county, and is well known as one of its substantial citizens.

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### JOHN H. DRERUP.

One of the oldest families in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, is the Drerup family, which has a splendid ancestry back to their native soil in Germany.

The late John H. Drerup was born in Prussia on August 25, 1835, and in that year was brought to America by his parents, John Bernard and Anna (Werning) Drerup. The family located in the woods south of Glandorf in pioneer times.

John Bernard Drerup was born on April 10, 1799, the son of Bernard Heinrich Drerup, of Norwalde, and Maria Anna (Munsterwig) Drerup. Bernard Heinrich Drerup was born on November 13, 1746, the son of Melchior Drerup, of Norwalde, who was born in 1698, and who married Elizabeth Wilsbaumer. The family has in its possession a printed history which traces the ancestry even further back.

When the Drerup family located in Putnam county, this was all a new country. There were no roads and the Indians were still in possession of the





JOHN H. PIERREPONT AND FAMILY.



land. Food, of course, was scarce and limited in variety until the land could be cleared and crops raised. The people ate leaves from the trees cooked like greens.

The land held by the Drerup family was entered by Professor Horstman in 1835, and was deeded by him to them in September, 1837. They walked to Findlay, following an Indian trail, carrying a sack of corn to have it ground.

John H. Drerup was reared amid the pioneer surroundings of the early days of the county, securing such limited education as was afforded in those times. He married here and his first wife died a year and a half later, leaving no children. He was again married, on June 20, 1865, to Theresa Mersman. She was born at the south edge of Glandorf, and is a sister of George H. Mersman, whose sketch may be found elsewhere in this volume, and which gives the history of her parents. After his marriage Mr. Drerup spent the rest of his life on the farm where he grew up. He was the owner of two hundred and twenty acres at the time of his death, after having given four of his children a substantial start in life. He also owned property in Ottawa.

There were children born to John H. and Theresa (Mersman) Drerup, as follow: John B., on September 18, 1866, married Minnie Hermiller on June 11, 1888, and they live at Portageville, Missouri, and are the parents of four living children; Henry J., December 20, 1868, married Philomena Leopold on February 22, 1897, and now lives in Texas, having a family of seven children; Frank H., May 1, 1871, married Mary Lammers on October 29, 1895, and lives in Demmitt, Texas, and they have a family of eight children; Anna M., May 23, 1876, on October 27, 1904, became the wife of William J. Rieman and lives in Toledo, and they have four children; August C., December 6, 1878, married Mary Fortman on October 22, 1902, lives north of Ottawa and they have a family of three children; Pauline L., August C., December 6, 1878, married Mary Fortman on October 22, 1902, died on November 6, 1904; Edward H., March 5, 1884, married Adelaide Stechschulte, the daughter of Joseph Stechschulte, on June 27, 1911, and lives on the home place, having a family of three children, Walter, Louise and Norma; Fred J., February 26, 1888, married Frances Kreinbrink, the daughter of Theodore Kreinbrink, of Ottawa, on April 26, 1912, and lives in the northeast corner of Ottawa township.

Mrs. Drerup died on March 30, 1915, while one other son, Edward Drerup, and his family continue to live on the old place.

The father of these children died on March 25, 1906. He was a mem-

ber of the Catholic church at Glandorf, as well as were all his family. Years ago he served as trustee of Ottawa township, but did not wish to hold office. His widow still lives on the old home farm with her children, and the family is an old and highly esteemed one, comprising good, substantial citizens who are respected by all.

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### JOHN H. WANNEMACHER.

In writing the history of a community or state, it is the duty of the historian to make a searching investigation and satisfy himself beyond a reasonable doubt that the subject of his writing shall be worthy of recognition in a work of this nature. In reviewing the records of men in Putnam county, Ohio, who have won the admiration and respect of their fellow men by leading lives which may be referred to as examples of all that is good, and, who have been in some measure a success in themselves and a benefit to mankind at large, the name of John H. Wannemacher stands forth prominently among those entitled to consideration and whose record is that of one who has outstripped the less active plodders on the highway of life and among his contemporaries has achieved a marked degree of success as a farmer and honored by all owing to his upright life and industrious habits.

John H. Wannemacher was born on his father's farm in Monterey township, this county, January 12, 1857, and is the son of Joseph and Martha (Sterns) Wannemacher. His father was a native of Germany and was born there on March 19, 1827. Up to the age of fourteen he attended the schools in the old country and learned the locksmith trade, which he worked at until about the age of twenty, when he decided to leave for America. He embarked for this country on a sailing vessel on May 1, 1847, the ship being the "Omaha" bound for New York. After being at sea for thirty-six days, he arrived in New York and went to Tuscarawas county, Ohio, where he secured employment in an iron-mill and remained there for twelve months and then went to New Castle, Pennsylvania, where he was employed in a nail factory for about a year. He decided to discontinue working for others in 1851 and left for the city of Cleveland, where he boarded a vessel and arrived in Putnam county, Ohio, via the Canal Packet line about the 1st of June. He settled in Monteroy township, when there were just twenty-six voters in the township, on eighty acres of land in section 26, located about one and one-half miles west of the town of Ottoville. On this tract he lived and devoted his entire time to clearing the land and doing some general farming. He

was elected to the office of township trustee in 1855 and continued to hold that office until 1866, and also served as a land appraiser during the year 1860. In the year 1868 he decided to engage in the general merchandising business and erected a store for that purpose in the town of Ottoville, during which year he was appointed justice of the peace. He continued the store until twenty-two years later and then decided to retire from active business. He was the first notary public in Monteroy township and was the first mayor of Ottoville. He was also a member of the local school board and held the office of justice of the peace until about the time of his death. Subject's father was twice married, the first time, April 17, 1854, to Martha Stern, and to them were born nine children, six of whom are living, as follow: Mary, widow of Anton Fleck, who lives in Delphos; John H., the subject; Henry, who lives in Monteroy township; Adam, who lives in Pennsylvania; Godfrey, who lives in Monteroy township, and Katherine, wife of John Recket, and who died about 1903. The mother of these children lived until the year 1878. The second marriage occurred on January 26, 1887, to Mrs. Barbara Sufert, in Bucyrus, Ohio. By a prior marriage she had one child, Mary. The father lived until September 25, 1906, when he died, at the age of seventy-nine years, six months and six days.

John H. Wannemacher received his early education in the township schools and later on clerked in his father's general store for seven or eight years and remained with him until the time of his marriage, at which time he took Emma Rekart to be his wife. She was the daughter of Joseph and Catherine Rekart, both natives of Germany and whose respective parents settled and remained in Putnam county, Ohio, until the time of their deaths. To John H. and Emma (Rekart) Wannemacher were born ten children, eight of whom are living, named in the order of their births as follow: Joseph B., on February 27, 1881; Henry A., November 10, 1882; Matilda, March 26, 1885; Sylvester H., December 17, 1885; Albert T., July 6, 1889; Florentina M., October 1, 1891; Oliva M., October 27, 1894; Leo J., March 14, 1896; Lawrence J., April 8, 1898; Vincent O., January 7, 1901. Of these Joseph B. died in July, 1907, and Oliva M. died on October 27, 1894.

Soon after the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Wannemacher they established themselves on the original eighty acres belonging to his father and which land has been in the Wannemacher family for more than sixty years. Mr. Wannemacher has added to this land from time to time, and the present holdings consist of three hundred and twenty acres of high grade farm land and a great many improvements have been made in the way of new buildings, which include the erection of a fine barn and remodeling of the old house to

make it modern in every respect. Besides agriculture, Mr. Wannemacher makes a specialty of raising Belgian horses and has a farm for this purpose, situated about one and three-quarter miles southwest of the town of Ottoville. His possessions include some exceptionally well-bred Belgian stallions and they are a source of great pride to the owner.

Mr. Wannemacher is a Democrat and is a strong advocate of the progressive principles of his party's platform. He has held the office of township trustee for three terms and justice of the peace for about four terms, also acts as a member of the local school board and takes a great interest in educational matters, to which he has given his attention to a large extent for the past eighteen years. At the present time he is holding the office of treasurer and clerk of the school board, also is a stockholder in the Ottoville Bank, of which institution he has been a director ever since its organization. He is also a director of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Ottoville. Mr. Wannemacher is not connected with any fraternal societies, but he and his family are members of the Catholic church of Ottoville, to which they contribute liberally for all worthy causes. Personally, Mr. Wannemacher is a man of genial nature and a very agreeable companion, enjoying a large circle of friends, and it is safe to say that no man in the community enjoys, to a greater measure, the confidence and regard of the people than he.

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### JOHN SYLVESTER SCHAFER.

John Sylvester Schafer, who is at present engaged in the manufacture of tile, brick and hollow-ware, in North Creek, Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, and who has built up a large and lucrative business by his enterprise and progressive methods, has contributed, in a material way, to the commercial advancement of Palmer township. Mr. Schafer is possessed of splendid business ability and has been successful in a material way. He is a man who enjoys the confidence of the people with whom he deals and is well known for his sterling integrity and upright, honorable methods of business dealings.

John Sylvester Schafer was born on February 18, 1866, in section 7, of Palmer township, on the old homestead farm. He is the son of William and Mary (Morris) Schafer, the former of whom was born in Koenig, Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, and came to America with his parents in 1854. They settled in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, where William

Schafer was married to Mary Morris, the daughter of Judge Morris, August 6, 1863. With his young wife, he moved to Palmer township, Putnam county, in March, 1864, and settled on a farm, where he and his wife resided until their deaths. At the time they moved to Palmer township, the land was almost an unbroken forest and abounded with all kinds of game and wild animals. William Schafer cleared the timber from most of the farm with his own hands. He was quite active in politics, being a Democrat. He held several offices of trust and confidence. In April, 1867, he was elected justice of the peace of Palmer township, and held this office for twelve consecutive terms, or until his death. He was twice elected township treasurer, and once township trustee. He was elected county commissioner in 1875, and held this office for six years. In March, 1879, William Schafer was appointed postmaster of North Creek and held this office until McKinley was elected President of the United States.

William and Mary (Morris) Schafer had twelve children, Henry P., born on September 11, 1864; John Sylvester, the subject of this sketch; Margaret Catherine, September 19, 1867; William W., December 17, 1869; George Lewis, December 12, 1871; Charles C., September 26, 1874; Sarah E., August 22, 1876; Mary Emaline, June 17, 1878; Ida Lavina, August 19, 1880; Benjamin F., August 11, 1882; Surilda Laura May, July 13, 1884, died on September 1, 1903; and Joseph J., May 19, 1887. Five of the sons and one daughter reside in Putnam county and the other five reside in different states. Mrs. Mary Schafer died on October 10, 1902, and her husband, William Schafer, died on January 1, 1903.

John Sylvester Schafer grew up on the homestead farm of his parents and was educated in the old district school No. 3. He learned the blacksmith trade at the age of seventeen years and started a shop at North Creek, Ohio, which he conducted for twenty-three years.

John Sylvester Schafer was married on April 28, 1889, to Mary Ellen Rangler, who was born in Defiance county, Ohio, in Highland township, on October 19, 1863. She is the daughter of Samuel and Lydia Ann (Masters) Rangler. Mrs. Mary Schafer's father, of German descent, was born in Pennsylvania. He came to Ohio with his parents and settled in Hancock county on a farm and there grew up. He was reared as a farmer and educated in the common schools of Hancock county. His grandparents were also natives of Pennsylvania and came to Hancock county, where they farmed until their death. Samuel Rangler was married in Hancock county, Ohio, and farmed there for some time. Later, he came to Highland township, Defiance county, Ohio, where he settled on a farm of eighty acres. He

afterward sold this farm and purchased eighty acres in the same township, which he farmed until his death, in 1872. His wife died in 1870 or 1871, and after this he was married to Margaret Sponsler, who later died. Mrs. Lydia Ann Masters, his first wife, was a native of Pennsylvania. Her parents and grandparents were natives of England. Her parents, William Henry Masters and wife, were born in England and married there. Subsequently, they came to America and settled in Pennsylvania, where he was a farmer and where they both died on a farm.

Samuel and Lydia Ann Rangler, the parents of Mrs. Schafer, had seven children, Elizabeth, deceased; William Henry, of Defiance county, Ohio; Daniel; Alonzo and Clarinda, all deceased; Mary Ellen, the wife of Mr. Schafer; and John H., of Whiteville, Wood county, Ohio.

John Sylvester Schafer remained at home until his marriage, after which he lived at North Creek, Ohio. He traveled four seasons for the Walter A. Wood Harvester Machinery Company, during the harvesting season, as an expert. He was engaged as a blacksmith in a shop of his own for many years. He was an expert at this trade. On March 15, 1908, Mr. Schafer bought the tile mill of John Meyer, in Henry county, Ohio, and moved it to North Creek. He remodeled and enlarged it and continues to operate the mill, from which he ships its products to many different parts of the country. Mr. Schafer is now installing special machinery for the manufacture of hollow-ware. He enjoys a large and lucrative business.

John S. and Mary Ellen (Rangler) Schafer have eight children, William Henry, born on May 14, 1890; James Franklin, January 27, 1893; Mary Margaret, August 20, 1895; Clyde and Ida Levina, twins, July 6, 1897; John Edward, December 17, 1901; Carl Clifford, February 20, 1903; and Forest Joseph, November 4, 1908. William Henry lives at Curtis, Ohio, where he is a steam engineer for the McCracken Tile Company. James Franklin married Iva Hughes and lives at Plymouth, Ohio. The remainder of the children are at home. John, Carl and Forest attend No. 3 district school, of Palmer township.

Mr. Schafer is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 745, at Pleasant Bend, Ohio. He has passed through all the chairs of the lodge and is now past chancellor. He is a member of the National Engineer Society of America and belongs to branch No. 21, at Lima, Ohio. Mr. Schafer has served as justice of the peace since 1903. He has been township clerk and road supervisor, but is not active now. He was appointed, under Governor Cox, on the board of complaints of Ottawa, Ohio, for three years and he is now serving his second year. Throughout his life he has been active in the



affairs of the Democratic party and has contributed much to the success of that party in this county. Mr. Schafer is a member of the Free Baptist church and Mrs. Schafer is a member of the United Brethren church, at Mt. Zion, Monroe township, Putnam county.

John S. Schafer is a congenial man, well-read and well-informed. He is a man of splendid business ability. He comes of an excellent family and is widely and favorably known. He is a kind father and, above all, is a man of upright character.

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### RALPH S. KIRKENDALL.

Dependent very largely upon his own resources, Ralph S. Kirkendall has attained no insignificant success, and though he may have encountered obstacles like most young men of affairs, and met with reverses, he has pushed steadily forward and has ever been willing to work for the object of his ambition. His tenacity and fortitude are due, no doubt in a large measure, to worthy traits inherited from his sterling ancestors, whose high ideals and correct principles he has ever sought to emulate. Ralph S. Kirkendall is one of the well-known young farmers of Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio.

Ralph S. Kirkendall was born in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, on July 17, 1891. Ralph S. Kirkendall is the son of Henry and Anna (Simon) Kirkendall. Henry Kirkendall was born in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, February 18, 1858. He spent his boyhood days on his father's farm in Union township, and was educated in the public schools in Union township, where he was reared as a farmer. He was engaged in operating his father's farm and worked out by the month on various farms until his marriage. He was married in Greensburg township, to Anna Simon, the daughter of Louis Simon, whose life history appears elsewhere in this volume.

Suffice it to say here in this place, that Louis Simon has long been one of the leading farmers in Putnam county, having been born here on April 24, 1838, the son of John P. and Savilla (Genshimer) Simon. John P. Simon was born in Germany, on the Rhine, and there married Savilla Genshimer, who was also a native of Germany, born in 1812. John P. and Savilla (Genshimer) Simon had the following children: John; Catherine and Philip, both deceased; Lewis, the father of Mrs. Kirkendall; Jacob, who died in childhood; Barbara, who married Michael Rinkle; Louisa, deceased; Sophia, who married the Rev. Philip Kesler; Mrs. A. L. Hauck; Anna, who

married W. J. Varner; Savilla, the wife of J. W. Purnell; Elizabeth, deceased, and John Adam, who died at the age of ten years. John P. Simon was a prominent man in this part of the country and died on April 29, 1888. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and the Presbyterian church. John P. Simon's first wife died in 1856. Two years later he married Mrs. Margaret M. Landis, and they had one son, Adam, born in 1859. Mr. Simon's third wife was Mrs. Margaret Hedges, who died on March 25, 1895. Louis Simon was married on April 13, 1861, to Barbara M. Dangler, daughter of George and Fannie (Fender) Dangler. The following children were born to Louis and Barbara M. (Dangler) Simon: Anna, who became the wife of Ralph S. Kirkendall, Veronica married George Ridenour; John A. and Barbara died in infancy. Mrs. Barbara M. (Dangler) Simon died on May 11, 1868. Lewis Simon was married again on March 18, 1870, to Jennie Apger, the daughter of John R. and Elizabeth Apger, who was born on February 10 1847. Eight children were born to this second marriage, as follow: Mary L., who died on October 31, 1876; Charles E.; Chester L.; Ora A.; Lewis W.; Blanch; Ralph B.; and an infant that died.

After his marriage, Henry Kirkendall moved to Palmer township, where he farmed eighty acres of land. Later, he purchased seventy-five acres adjoining, in section 28. Here he followed general farming until his death on August 16, 1914, at the age of fifty-eight. Outside of a short time spent in Union county, Ohio, he lived most of his life in Palmer township, Putnam county. He improved his farm in Palmer township and erected the buildings and drained the land and fenced the farm. He was not a member of any lodge. He served as township trustee for two terms. He was a Democrat and was not a member of any church. His widow survives him and lives on the home place, in Palmer township, with Ralph S. Kirkendall, her son and the subject of this sketch, who operates the farm for his mother. Henry and Anna (Simon) Kirkendall had five children: Lula married Samuel Elsea, and they live in Indianapolis, Indiana; Fay lives in Indianapolis; Ralph S. and Chester live at home; one child died in infancy. Chester is attending high school at Continental, Ohio.

Ralph S. Kirkendall was married on August 26, 1914, to Joycie Troyer, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Burkmeyer) Troyer.

Having grown up on the home farm in Palmer township, Ralph S. Kirkendall was educated in the township schools. After his marriage, he continued to live on the homestead, which he farms and manages for his mother. In the fall of 1914, Mrs. Henry Kirkendall added forty acres to

the original one hundred and fifty-five and they now own one hundred and ninety-five acres.

Ralph S. Kirkendall is not a member of any lodge and has held no offices, but is identified with the fortunes of the Democratic party. Although he was reared in the United Brethren faith, he is not a member of any church. Mrs. Kirkendall is a member of the Keiferville United Brethren church and was educated in the Palmer township schools. Ralph S. Kirkendall is a congenial young man, a hard worker and devotes his entire time to farming, his chosen vocation. He is favorably known in this section of the county and the family are highly esteemed by those who know them.

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#### WILLIAM BALL.

The history of the Buckeye state is a record of the steady growth of many flourishing communities planted in the wilderness by the sturdy pioneers of a departed generation. These communities have reached great magnitude today, and have become prosperous with fertile farms and neatly-kpt buildings, good roads and a progressive social spirit. Each county has had its share in the story and every county can lay claim to some incident which goes to make up the history of the commonwealth. After all, the history of a state or county is but the record of the doings of its people, among whom the pioneers and their sturdy descendants have places of no secondary importance. One of the well-known families of Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, is that of the Balls, and one of the present-day representatives of this family, who is a well-known farmer of Palmer township, is William Ball.

William Ball was born on August 25, 1860, in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is a son of Ferdinand and Emaline (Gross) Ball. Ferdinand Ball was born on August 25, 1825, in Germany, and was a son of Barney and Mary M. Ball. Ferdinand Ball came with his parents to America at the age of five years, and settled in Stark county, Ohio. His parents had been farmers in Germany and settled on a farm in that county in the early pioneer days. Ferdinand was reared on this farm, and his parents had the following children: Barney, George, Mathias, John, Ferdinand, Caroline, Eva, Mary, Elizabeth, all of whom, except Magdalene and three others whose names are not now a matter of record. The last three named are deceased; Magdalene is also deceased.

Ferdinand Ball was educated in the public schools of Carroll and Seneca counties, Ohio, and on May 13, 1845, was married to Emeline Gross. He had learned the blacksmith trade and was considered an expert in this line. His parents migrated from Stark county, Ohio, to either Carroll or Seneca county, Ohio, where they farmed, and then moved to Putnam county, and here they bought forty acres of land in section 7, of Palmer township, where Barney Ball and his wife both died. Ferdinand Ball farmed his father's place, and also operated a blacksmith shop, which was located on the farm. He, subsequently, increased this forty acres, by hard work and rigid economy, to nearly two hundred acres of good land, all lying in Palmer township. He had a farm of forty acres in Monroe township, Putnam county, and followed agricultural pursuits all his life, having retired from active work in the blacksmith shop some time before his death, which occurred on January 16, 1910, at which time he had reached the age of eighty-five years. He was a man of strong physical proportions, a prudent business man and well liked in his neighborhood. He was not a member of any lodge and cared nothing for political office, devoted all his time to his family and to his business interests and was a staunch and devout member of the Sacred Heart Catholic church at New Bavaria, Ohio, and later of St. Joseph's church at North Creek, to which latter institution he donated the ground, comprising three acres, on which is erected the St. Joseph's church. He gave liberally to the support of the church, both financially and by his regular attendance. Both his parents died on the home farm, in section 7, where William Ball was born.

Emeline Gross, the mother of William Ball, was born on June 10, 1831, near Luxemburg, Germany, and came with her parents to America when she was quite young. They settled in Stark county, Ohio, where they operated a farm, and here their daughter grew to womanhood. She was married to Ferdinand Ball on May 13, 1845. She was a good mother, kind and patient and always worked with zeal and effort to build up her home, and did nobly her share toward building up the family fortunes. Her death occurred on December 26, 1895. She was an active and devoted member of the St. Joseph's church at North Creek.

Ferdinand and Emeline (Gross) Ball were the parents of eight children: Henry, living on the old homestead farm in Palmer township; John, who is also living on the home farm; George, a merchant at North Creek, Ohio; William, the immediate subject of this sketch; Mrs. Mary Engleman, of North Creek, Ohio; Catherine, deceased; Susanna, living on the home farm, and Martin, who is married and lives in Palmer township.

Ferdinand Ball enlisted at Defiance, Ohio, in the Sixty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in 1864, and served until the close of the war.

William Ball was married on May 26, 1896, to Louisa Motto, who was born in Hancock county, Ohio, and who is a daughter of John and Malena (Raclot) Motto. Mrs. Ball's father was born in the village of Boncourt, France, in 1830, where he received his education and where there he was married. He was reared a farmer and was a son of Peter Motto and wife, both natives of France. Peter Motto had a family of five children, Malena, Nicholas, John, Adolph and one other. Peter Motto's wife died in France, after which he came to America and settled in Hancock county, Ohio, on a farm, and here he lived the remainder of his life. His son, John, came to America after his marriage, and after the birth of his first two children in France. These children were Theophilus and Emily, both of whom are deceased. John Motto bought forty acres of land in Hancock county, Ohio, where he farmed for some time, later selling it and moving to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1862, where he purchased eighty acres of uncleared land. This land was heavily timbered, wild and swampy, and was located in section 4, of Palmer township. Mr. Motto farmed this land until his death in 1899, at the age of sixty-eight years. He was not a member of any lodge and held no offices except that of school director of his township. He had a splendid education and was a well-informed man. He was an active Democrat, and was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic church at North Creek, Ohio. His wife, Malena, was also a native of France. Her parents were Peter Raclot and wife, both of whom died in France. Mrs. John Motto died on the homestead farm in Palmer township, March 14, 1914, at the age of eighty-one years. John Motto and wife were the parents of five children: Theophilus, deceased; Amelia, deceased; Mrs. Salena Warnament, deceased; Theodore, who lives in section 4, of Palmer township, on the homestead farm of eighty acres, which he owns and where he has farmed until recent years, when he retired from active farm work, and rents out the farm to reliable tenants, but he still maintains his residence on the farm. He never married. Louisa, the fifth child of Mr. and Mrs. John Motto, is the wife of Mr. Ball.

Mr. and Mrs. Ball have no children. Mr. Ball was educated at district school No. 3, Palmer township, and grew up on the home farm, where he was reared to the life of a farmer. He remained at home, assisting with the work on the farm, until his marriage, when he moved to a farm of eighty acres near the original homestead. Forty acres of this farm was

deeded to him by his father, and Mr. Ball purchased the additional tract of forty acres. He operated this farm for some time and then sold it and bought his present farm of sixty-six acres in section 5, of Palmer township. He removed to this farm, in 1907, and farmed here in a general way until 1912, when he retired from active farming, renting out the fields, but maintains his residence on the farm.

Mr. Ball has held no public offices, and is not a member of any lodge. He is a Democrat. He is a member of St. Joseph's Catholic church at North Creek, and his wife is also a faithful and devout member of this church. Mr. Ball is a quiet and unassuming man and an excellent farmer. His farm is well located and his home and barn and other splendid outbuildings indicate that their owner is a man of good taste and sound judgment. Mr. Ball cleared his first farm, fenced and drained it, and also ditched and improved his present farm and put it into its present good condition, and by close application to his agricultural interests, he has managed to have a good income laid by for his declining years. He is a man of sterling character and well known, bearing a high reputation for fairness. He comes of a good old family, who were sturdy pioneers and who did their share toward building up the farming interests of Putnam county.

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#### GEORGE BALL.

There are few better known merchants and farmers living in Putnam county than George Ball, who, for nearly thirty years, has been engaged in the mercantile business at North Creek, Ohio, and who, for several years, has owned a splendid farm of one hundred and sixty-seven acres in Palmer township. Mr. Ball, who is in partnership in the mercantile business at North Creek with W. H. Engleman, has here built up a large and flourishing business, which is the result of painstaking effort to please his customers, and scrupulous dealings with the public.

George Ball, the son of Ferdinand and Emaline (Gross) Ball, was born on October 24, 1857, in Stark county, Ohio, near the city of Canton. Ferdinand Ball was born on August 25, 1825, in Germany, and was the son of Barney and Mary M. Ball. Ferdinand Ball came with his parents to America when five years old, and settled with them in Stark county, Ohio, where they were pioneer farmers. He was reared on the farm, and was one of nine

children, the others being Barney, George, Mathias, John, Caroline, Eva, Mary and Elizabeth, Magdalene and three others whose names are not now a matter of record, all of whom are now deceased, except Eva, Mary and Elizabeth. Educated in the public schools of Carroll and Seneca counties, Ohio, Ferdinand Ball was married to Emaline Gross, May 13, 1845, and having learned the blacksmith trade before his marriage, came to be regarded as an expert in this line. Migrating with his parents to a farm in section 7, of Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, Ferdinand lived with them until their death. By hard and consistent work, and rigorous economy, he was able, from the profits of the farm and his labors as a blacksmith, to accumulate two hundred acres of good land, all in Palmer township. He also owned forty acres in Monroe township. He passed away on January 16, 1910, after having reached the age of eighty-five years. Devoted to the interests of his family and his business, he cared little about politics or holding office. He was a stanch member of the Sacred Heart Catholic church at New Bavaria, and donated the ground upon which was erected the church building. Mrs. Emaline (Gross) Ball, the mother of our subject, was born on June 10, 1831, near Luxemburg, Germany, and who had come with her parents to America when a girl, grew to womanhood in Stark county, Ohio. A good mother, a kind and patient wife, who did nobly her share toward building up the family fortunes, she passed away, December 26, 1895. She also had been a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic church at New Bavaria. George Ball, himself, was one of a family of eight children. Of these children, Henry lives on the old homestead farm in Palmer township; John also lives on the home farm; William is living retired on his farm in Palmer township; Mrs. Mary Engleman lives at North Creek; Catherine is deceased, and Suzanna lives on the home farm.

Having left Stark county, Ohio, at the age of eighteen months, with his parents, who eventually settled in Putnam county on forty acres of land which they cleared and improved, George Ball here grew to manhood, and was educated in the old district No. 3 school. He farmed until 1887, when he entered the mercantile business with W. H. Engleman, at North Creek. Mr. Ball is a partner in the business and owns a half interest in the store. He is still active in its management.

George Ball was married on May 10, 1893, to Carrie Yearling, a native of Franklin county, Ohio, and a daughter of Adam and Catherine (Miller) Yearling. George and Carrie (Yearling) Ball have had eight children, as follow: Grace Anna, born on March 13, 1894; Clinton William, September

21, 1896; Raymond Martin, February 16, 1898; Emaline Catherine, November 14, 1900; Clara Bertha, September 13, 1902; Matilda Mary, February 1, 1905; Nelson Lewis, August 31, 1907, and Helen Theresa, September 14, 1909. All of these children are living at home.

After his marriage, Mr. Ball removed to the property in North Creek, Ohio, where he now resides. Having acquired one hundred and sixty-seven acres of fine land in Palmer township, he divides his attention somewhat between the farm and his mercantile business. Mr. Ball's sons, however, farm all the land except eighty acres which he rents out.

A Democrat, Mr. Ball has never been ambitious to hold office, but has devoted his life and his energies to his interests. He is known to be a keen business man and a man with a remarkable perception. He is especially devoted to his home and to his family. He is a well-known and favorably liked in this community.

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### JOSEPH BOECKER.

It is the farmer who makes possible for men in other occupations the sustaining power of life. Farming was the original occupation of man and it is the only occupation which can exist independently of the others. Indeed, every occupation is dependent upon the farmer. The products of the farm have made our railroads what they are today. The great bulk of manufacturing is made necessary by the farmer's needs. The people of the city could not live a week without the farmer's products. He holds not only the purse-strings of the nation, but even the very life of the people. For this reason the farmer has in reality the most important profession of all. Putnam county has fine farms and good farmers, among whom is Joseph Boecker, of Perry township.

Joseph Boecker was born on June 29, 1889, close to Glandorf, in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of William and Bernadina (Lefken) Boecker. William Boecker was born in Glandorf, Germany, and came to America when a young man, with his brother Charles, and settled in Ottawa township, Putnam county. He farmed for a time and later purchased forty acres in Ottawa township, and forty acres in Greensburg township. He married Bernadina Lefken, who was born in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio. She died in 1898, and William Boecker has never married again. He farmed in Ottawa and Greensburg township for some time after his marriage, and came to Jackson township, March 20, 1895, where he



purchased one hundred and sixteen acres of excellent land. He moved to this farm on March 7, 1908, and bought one hundred and twenty acres in Perry township, a little later. He never operated the farm in Perry township, however, but rented sixty acres of it to his son, Joseph, the subject of this sketch, and also rented about sixty acres to his other son, August. William Boecker lives on the home place in Jackson township and is engaged in general farming. He and his wife had twelve children, as follow: Mrs. Tracy Brinkman, who lives in Jackson township; Henry, who is deceased; August lives in Perry township; Edward, who is deceased; Anna, who lives on the home place in Jackson township; Joseph, the subject of this sketch; Bernard and Francis, who live at home; William, deceased; Harry and Mary live at home, and one child, who died in infancy. William Boecker is a member of St. Barbara's Catholic church at Cloverdale, Ohio. He is not a member of any lodge, nor has he held office. He has been a life-long farmer, and, during his entire life, has been identified with the fortunes of the Democratic party.

Joseph Boecker grew up on the farm in Ottawa township, and was educated in the township schools. He remained at home until his marriage, after which time he removed to his present farm in Perry township. He built the house and barn and, in fact, all of the other buildings now situated on the place. Mr. Boecker has ditched, fenced and cleared and improved the farm. Lately he has erected an addition to the barn. He follows general farming.

Joseph Boecker was married on November 15, 1911, to Flora Unterbrink, daughter of Barney and Agnes (Kracht) Unterbrink. Mrs. Boecker was born in Greensburg township on December 5, 1886. Her parents were both natives of Ohio and follow general farming. They removed to a farm of one hundred acres in Perry township, about 1902. Mrs. Boecker's paternal grandparents came from Germany.

To Joseph and Flora (Unterbrink) Boecker one child, Clarence, has been born, on October 27, 1912.

Joseph Boecker is not a member of any lodge nor has he ever been active in politics. He is identified with the Democratic party, however. Mr. Boecker has given almost his undivided attention to the cultivation of his farm, and has in a comparatively brief period, made a rather unusual success in farming. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Boecker are members of St. Barbara's Catholic church at Cloverdale, Ohio. They are prominent in the affairs of this church and contribute liberally toward its support.

## ISAAC E. BOGART.

In the anxious and laborious struggle for an honorable competency and substantial career on the part of the average business man, fighting the everyday battles of life, there is but little to attract the idle reader in search of a sensational chapter. For a mind fully awake to the reality and meaning of human existence, there are noble and immortal lessons in the lives of men who, without other means than a clear mind, a strong arm and a true heart, conquer fortune and gain not only temporary reward for their toil, but also that which is greater and higher, the respect and confidence of those with whom their years of active life have placed them in contact. A man of this character is Isaac E. Bogart, a well-known farmer of Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio.

Isaac E. Bogart was born on March 18, 1863, in Pleasant township, near Columbus Grove. He is the son of John and Frances (Fruschey) Bogart.

Spending his boyhood days on the home farm from the time he was eight years old until he was married, Isaac E. Bogart now lives on the home place to which his father moved when his son was eight years old. Mr. Bogart traveled as a road salesman for J. O. Keller, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, a patent medicine concern, during a part of three years, in Hardin and Union counties, Ohio, before he was married. He traveled from his father's home in Putnam county, driving to these other counties, and here learned the valuable points about salesmanship. Subsequently he returned to the farm and helped on the home place, cutting and hauling timber with his brother.

Mr. Bogart was married, March 1, 1888, to Rosa Beam, a native of Union township, Putnam county, and the daughter of Amos and Mary (Burkhart) Beam. To this union seven children have been born, two of whom died in infancy. The five children living are Orville Ray, Mary Frances, Blanche, Iva and John Amos. Orville Ray married Floy Eversole, a native of Allen county, and has two children, Harold Milton and Bona Marie. He lives on a farm adjoining his father's home place. Mary Frances married Roy Vandemarke, a native of Union township, Putnam county, and a farmer in Pleasant township. The three latter children are still at home.

After his marriage, Mr. Bogart rented sixty acres of land in Union township of Henry Beam, his wife's brother. He lived here one year and then moved to Perry township and rented a farm for a period of three years, when he purchased forty acres of Silas Clark, in Union township, and farmed here for about one year. Subsequently he sold out and moved to the farm



ISAAC E. BOGART AND FAMILY.



owned by his father-in-law, where they established the first herd of Shorthorn cattle. They had from thirty-five to forty head, obtaining their start from John Miller, of Peru, Indiana. Mr. Bogart has exhibited this herd four seasons in the Ohio fair circuit, two seasons at the Columbus state fair, in 1898, at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition at Omaha, where he took first, second and third premiums in the class shows, and every premium in getting the grand sweepstakes on the age herd, general purpose breed, etc. Mr. Bogart followed this for a period of five years, when Mr. Beam died and a settlement was made and the herd sold. At this time Mr. Bogart had nothing left but his household goods and family. He went south to find a new location for cattle breeding purposes, but later returned to Putnam county. He rented the home farm, where he is now living, for a period of three years, and during the first year purchased two eighty-acre tracts of land from Mr. Beardsley, of Ottawa, which tracts adjoin the home place. Mr. Bogart rented the east eighty acres, of the one hundred and sixty acre tract, to William Schumaker for cash rent and farmed the home place and the other eighty acres himself. The one hundred and sixty acres cost him ten thousand dollars. Later, Mr. Bogart moved to his one-hundred-and-sixty-acre tract and farmed for six years, during which time he sold eighty acres because of ill health. Later he purchased a portion of the home farm and his brother bought the balance. Subsequently, he bought his brother's share. Mr. Bogart rebuilt his house on his present place and moved there in 1909. He has made extensive improvements upon the residence, until he now has an ideal, modern country home. The other buildings on the farm were erected before Mr. Bogart moved to it, except a new garage, which Mr. Bogart built in June, 1914. He has a splendid barn, thirty by fifty feet, of hewed lumber and sixteen-foot posts, eight inches square. Mr. Bogart follows general farming and is an extensive raiser of live stock and grain.

Reverting to Mr. Bogart's ancestry, he is the son of John Bogart, who was born in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, on September 28, 1885. John Bogart was the son of Jacob and Mary (Yaeger) Bogart, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania, in 1803, and who died in 1857, at the age of fifty-five years. Mary Yaeger was born in Pennsylvania in 1803, and died June 20, 1881, at the age of seventy-eight years.

John Bogart came with his parents to Putnam county when a young man and settled in Pleasant township. He remained on the farm with his father until his marriage, August 18, 1849, to Frances Fruschey, a native of Fairfield county, Ohio, born on September 20, 1830, and the daughter of

Frederick and Elizabeth (Welton) Fruschey. Frederick Fruschey was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1792, and died in 1854 at the age of sixty-two years. His wife was a native of Virginia, born in 1802, and died in 1854, at the age of fifty-two years. She had come with her parents to Fairfield county, Ohio, and here she was married. After the marriage, she came with her husband to Putnam county. Subsequent to his marriage, John Bogart rented a farm and later purchased one northwest of Columbus Grove. With the exception of three years which he spent in Missouri, he has spent all of his life in Putnam county. He was a life-long farmer and died on the homestead farm where his son, Isaac E., now lives. He was a stanch and active Republican and a member of the United Brethren church. His wife was also a member of this church at Columbus Grove. They were the parents of eleven children: Jesse, deceased; Frederick, deceased; Jacob, of Pleasant township; William, of Columbus Grove; Mary Annie, deceased; Reeder, deceased; Mrs. Alice Moeller, of Sugar Creek township; Mrs. Alma Wagner, a twin sister of Mrs. Alice Moeller, who lives with her mother in Columbus Grove; Isaac E., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Caroline Sterling, of Parkin, Arkansas, and Mrs. Sarah Ellen Cartwright, of Waterville, Ohio. Mrs. John Bogart is still living with her daughter, Mrs. Alma Wagner, at Columbus Grove. She came to Putnam county with her parents at the age of ten years, who settled upon a farm a short distance from Columbus Grove. Her father owned a fourth section of land and was a successful farmer. She spent her womanhood in Putnam county and was married there. Her father conducted a hotel in the village as early as 1844.

As heretofore mentioned, Mrs. Isaac E. Bogart is the daughter of Amos and Mary (Burkhart) Beam. Amos Beam during his life was a well-known citizen and farmer of Union township, a native of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. He was the son of Jacob and Rosa (Kerns) Beam, also natives of Pennsylvania. Amos Beam, who was born on June 27, 1823, was the grandson of Peter Beam, who was born on December 5, 1872, in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and who died December 8, 1808. Peter and his brother, John, were members of the German Lutheran church. Jacob Beam, the son of Peter Beam, and the father of Amos, was born in Lancaster county, April 13, 1796, and about 1819 was married to Rosa Kerns, the daughter of Abraham and Barbara Kerns. To this union were born eight children, Maria, the wife of Matthias Stauffer, deceased; Amos, deceased; Mrs. Susanna Miller, deceased; Elizabeth, the wife of Daniel Shipper, deceased; Mrs. Katie Burkhart, deceased; Isaac, deceased; Sarah, the wife of I. E. Musselman, a merchant of Bowmansville, Pennsylvania; and John, a

farmer of the same state. Jacob Beam, who was a member of the Lutheran church, died on November 25, 1878. His son, Amos Beam, who, as heretofore stated, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, on June 27, 1823, having arrived at manhood, was married in Breckenock township, Lancaster county, at the bride's home, August 12, 1847, to Mary Burkhart. The marriage ceremony was performed by the Rev. Drom Comer. They began the toils of married life with the thought of obtaining a home. About this time emigration was drifting to what was known then as the "Far West," and what now comprises the great state of Ohio. In the spring of 1854, having concluded that the West was the place to seek for a home, Amos Beam and wife set out for Ohio, leaving their fathers, mothers and friends for what was then the great dismal Black swamp. Coming partly by rail and partly by land, they arrived in Putnam county, a few miles east of Pandora. After living there for only a short time, they again started westward and stopped this time about four and one-half miles west of Columbus Grove, on what is now the Columbus Grove and Kalida road, where they purchased forty acres of land. Being a shoemaker by trade, he cleared and tilled his land by day and made boots and shoes at night. Having accumulated some wealth by this time, he purchased another eighty acres adjoining the original forty and in the spring of 1863, sold this farm and moved a mile farther north and one mile east, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. Here he began to lay the foundation for a permanent home.

To Mr. and Mrs. Amos Beam were born ten children, four sons and six daughters, all of whom grew to manhood and womanhood and became heads of families. They are all living at this time, except three, one daughter and two sons. Louisa Beam, who married Alfred Mayberry, was the first to be called to the Great Beyond. After her death, the eldest son, John, passed away and he was followed by the youngest son, Amos, Jr. The living children are David, Henry, Mrs. Sarah Glancy, Mrs. Mary Scott, Mrs. Kate Buckingham, Mrs. Lydia Norman and Mrs. Rosa Bogart. There are, at the present time, forty-one grandchildren living and sixteen deceased, forty-four great-grandchildren living and two deceased.

On August 12, 1897, Mr. and Mrs. Amos Beam celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary and on this date they were given a pleasant and agreeable surprise by their children and grandchildren, all of whom came with baskets well filled for the event. Amos Beam was presented with a gold-headed walking cane and Mrs. Beam was presented with a fine dress pattern. Each was given a pair of fine gold spectacles. They were also the recipients of many other presents.

Amos Beam's mother, Rosa (Kerns) Beam, who was born in 1798, passed away in July, 1874. She and her husband had been devout members of the Lutheran church and later belonged to the United Brethren church. Three years before her death, Amos Beam had erected a splendid brick dwelling on his Union township farm, and here he lived until his death, January 29, 1900, when he was seventy-six years, seven months and two days old. His devoted wife passed away about three years later, April 10, 1903, at the age of seventy-nine years, eight months and seventeen days. They were both faithful and loyal members of the United Brethren church throughout their lives and especially after their arrival in Ohio. Late in life Amos Beam, who had inherited Democratic doctrines from his father, became an ardent Prohibitionist. He was a township trustee and also a school director, both of which offices came to him without solicitation. He was a class leader in his church and superintendent of the Sunday school. He was a public-spirited citizen and always one of the leaders in the community where he lived.

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#### WILLIAM T. ETTER.

Agriculture has been the true source of man's dominion over earth ever since the primal existence of labor and has been the pivotal industry that has controlled for the most part all of the fields of action to which intelligence and energy have been devoted. Among the sturdy elements of Putnam county whose labors have profited alike themselves and the community in which they live, is William T. Etter, who is not only a farmer, but a tile manufacturer, and who has been honored by the people of Perry township by the election to the office of township trustee. In view of the consistent life lived by Mr. Etter, all of which has been passed within the borders of the state of Ohio, it is particularly fitting that the following short record of his career be incorporated in this volume.

William T. Etter was born on October 3, 1866, in Hancock county, Ohio. He is the son of George T. and Christina (Kohl) Etter, both of whom were natives of Germany, and who came to America at the age of eighteen and settled at Tiffin, Ohio, where they were married. Later they moved to Hancock county, Ohio, and settled near Arcadia, half way between Arcadia and Fostoria. Here George T. Etter farmed for a number of years, but later moved to North Baltimore, where he lived until his death in the fall of 1913, at the age of seventy-seven years. His wife, who, before her mar-



riage, was Christina Kohl, died in 1895, at the age of sixty-four years. After her death, George T. Etter remarried and his widow still lives at North Baltimore, Ohio. George T. and Christina (Kohl) Etter had eleven children, seven of whom are now living; John, lives in Michigan; Mrs. Mary Baer, lives three miles from Angola, Indiana; William T., the subject of this sketch; George, Samuel and Charles, all of whom live at Dupont, Ohio, and Albert, who lives in Perry township.

William T. Etter was educated in the public schools of Ohio, and received a good common-school education. He was married on December 8, 1888, to Mary E. Dicus, who was born in Paulding county, Ohio, and who is the daughter of Joshua and Sidney (Potter) Dicus. To this marriage nine children have been born, Carl, deceased; Coy, who is at home; Emma, who married James Foley, of Delphos, Ohio, and has two children, Opal and Howard; Anna, who married Arthur McCuen, of Critherville, Ohio, and has two children, Mary and Helen; Clayton, Clifford, Carney, Clarence and Mabel, all of whom are at home.

After his marriage, Mr. Etter moved to Putnam county, Ohio. During the first year, he lived on the D. J. Taylor farm in Monroe township and then lived one year across from the old home place. He then moved to the old homestead and, after being here for one year, moved to the Hickson farm, in Perry township, where he remained for two years. After this he moved to Dupont, Ohio, and went into the tile-manufacturing business with his father-in-law, Mr. Dicus. They conducted this enterprise together for about five years, when Mr. Dicus sold out to Mr. Etter's brother-in-law, Frank Walters. This arrangement continued for five years more. Subsequently, Mr. Etter purchased his brother-in-law's interest and conducted the business alone for five years. He then sold a one-third interest to two brothers, Charles and George, but is still actively identified with the business, though not active in the management. He devotes practically all of his time to farming one hundred and twenty-acres of the E. L. Marriott farm in Perry township. He has been farming this land for the past seven years. Mr. Etter owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in Arkansas, which he leases.

William T. Etter is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge No. 719, at Dupont, Ohio. He served on the local board of health for six years and also as a member of the Dupont school board for a number of years. He has been corporation treasurer for the past ten years and is still active in this capacity. For two years he was infirmary director of Putnam county, 1911 and 1912. At the present time he is trustee of

Perry township and is entering upon his second year. He has been treasurer of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodge for the past fifteen years. Mr. Etter is a staunch Democrat. He is not a member of any church, but was reared as an adherent of the Methodist faith. His wife is a member of the Methodist church at Dupont. William T. Etter is a man highly respected in Putnam county, where he is well known.

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### GILBERT McCLISH.

Gilbert McClish is one of the progressive and influential citizens of Putnam county, where, for more than half a century, he maintained his home, figuring as one of the builders of the community and is especially worthy of consideration in this work. He has, by his industry and sound judgment, not only improved a fine farm and won a fairly large competency for his old age, but he has materially assisted in promoting the general welfare of the community, and in many ways lending his valuable time and influence to the promulgation of various uplifting movements. Gilbert McClish is well known as one of the substantial farmers of Perry township, and has been honored by the citizens of this township by election to the important office of township trustee.

Gilbert McClish was born on November 28, 1857, in Perry township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of John and Hannah (Jeffrey) McClish, the former of whom was born in January, 1829, in Perry township, and a son of Silas and Nancy McClish, early settlers in Putnam county. Silas McClish died on June 20, 1860, and his wife on February 21, 1855. Gilbert McClish still has the deed for two tracts of government land entered by Silas McClish, his grandfather. The original papers are dated May 10, 1854, and December 15, 1854.

John McClish was reared as a farmer, and died on the homestead in Perry township, May 8, 1879, at the age of fifty-two years. Originally, there were one hundred and sixty acres in the homestead farm, but John McClish had over two hundred acres at the time of his death. He was trustee of Perry township for several terms.

John McClish was married three times, the first time to Hannah Jeffrey, who was born on October 10, 1836, in Putnam county, and who died, May 8, 1859. Four children were born to this marriage, only one of whom, besides the subject, is now living. She is Mrs. Nancy Pitcher, of Perry township.

Winnie and George, the other children, are deceased. John McClish was married the second time on April 24, 1860, to Harriet Dash. She died on February 27, 1873. Four children were born to this marriage, only two of whom are living, Ambrose, of Lima, Ohio, and Mrs. Mary Griffith, of Missouri. Frank died on May 1, 1875, and Alice died on May 20, 1872. After the death of his second wife, Mr. McClish married Elizabeth Hitchcock, January 24, 1875. She died in Henry county, Ohio, in 1907. No children were born to this third marriage.

Gilbert McClish grew up on the farm in Perry township, and was educated in the schools of this township. He remained with his father until his death and then assisted his step-mother, and later, he was married. He then purchased his present farm of eighty acres, which was partly cleared. He moved upon this land and since has, for the most part, placed it under cultivation. It is now a splendid farm, upon which he has recently erected a new barn, of the latest type.

Mr. McClish was married on November 29, 1882, to Flora Miller, who was born on August 13, 1863, in Marion county, Ohio. She is the daughter of Adolphus and Mary (Curren) Miller, both of whom were natives of Marion county, Ohio. To this union have been born six children, Grace and Zoe died of typhoid fever, the former on August 12, 1899, and the latter on November 17, 1889; Ralph, Edward, Guy and Helen, the four surviving children, live at home.

Adolphus Miller, the father of Mrs. McClish, was born in 1827, and died, December 27, 1899, at the age of seventy-one years and six months. His wife, who was Mary Curren before her marriage, was born in 1834, and died, August 15, 1899, at the age of sixty-five years and six months. Adolphus Miller came to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1881, and settled in Perry township on a farm. He farmed here until his death. He was not a member of any lodge. He was school director in Marion county, Ohio, some years, was a Republican and a member of the Baptist church. He was a strict church member and a regular attendant. His wife was a member of the United Brethren church at New Bethany, Perry township.

Gilbert McClish is now the trustee of Perry township, and is entering upon his second year at the present time. He is an active Republican, and prominent locally in the councils of his party. Mr. McClish is not a member of any church, but reared as an adherent of the Methodist church. His father was a staunch Methodist, and helped to erect the church at New Bethany, for a long time known as the McClish church, since John McClish gave the ground upon which this church was erected.

Gilbert McClish is a congenial, pleasant man, and makes acquaintances readily. He is widely known in this section of Putnam county, and is well liked for his frankness, sincerity and honesty. He is a good farmer, a good provider, and a lover of his home, wife and family.

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### THEODORE HORSTMAN.

Any person who will investigate the facts, will be surprised to learn of the great number of people of Germanic nativity and descent now living in the United States. Unquestionably the greatest number of immigrants reaching the shores of the new world come from that nation, and statistics show that there is more Germanic blood in the United States than any other. This being the fact, it is easy to account for the prosperity and morality in this country. Not only that, but it will afford an explanation for the love of learning shown by the people of this vast nation. Germany is famous the world over for its remarkable universities, for its educated men, for its poets, philosophers and for the industry, patience, intelligence, morality and sturdiness of its citizens. These qualities have been brought to this country by the immigrants and now are a part of our wonderful nation, its progress in domestic economy, its advancement in every branch of material development, its love of country and home. The subject of this sketch, Theodore Horstman, is a native of Germany.

Theodore Hortsman was born on January 6, 1869, in Westphalia, Germany. He is the son of Herman and Mary (Bruland) Horstman, the former of whom was a native of Westphalia, Germany, and died in 1890, at the age of seventy-one years. He was born in 1819, and never came to America. He was a farmer in Germany and at one time operated a stone quarry there, but was retired several years before his death. His wife was also a native of Westphalia, Germany, born in 1824, and died in 1885, at the age of sixty-one years. They had nine children, of whom five lived to maturity, Joseph, lives in Montana; Mrs. Christina Pott, deceased; Mrs. Anna Pott, of Perry township; Theodore, the subject of this sketch, and Herman, who lives in Jackson township, Putnam county.

Theodore Horstman came to America in 1893 and settled first in Jackson township on a farm. He purchased sixty acres of land and added to it until he now has one hundred acres in Jackson township. He farmed there about fourteen years and then moved to Cloverdale, Ohio, where he now

lives. He has something more than twenty-four acres in his home place, adjoining the town of Cloverdale, in Perry township, besides his Jackson township farm. When Mr. Horstman came to this country, the land which he bought was a wilderness and swamp. Since that time, however, by his untiring efforts he has greatly improved this land. He came to Jackson township when it was only partially settled, and has seen the vast improvements made in the farm property of this township. Mr. Horstman started in the stock business thirteen years ago and is still actively engaged in buying and selling all kinds of live stock, especially hogs, cattle and sheep.

Theodore Horstman was married in Germany, in 1890, on February 6, to Elizabeth Roieng, a native of Germany and the daughter of Joseph and Catherine Roieng, natives of Germany, who never came to America. To this happy union, four children have been born, Katherine, Amelia, Joseph and Margaret. All of these children are living at home.

Mr. Horstman is not a member of any lodge. At present he is one of the councilman of Cloverdale and was formerly a supervisor. He is a Democrat, is a member of St. Barbara's Catholic church at Cloverdale, as is also his family.

Theodore Horstman is a progressive farmer and takes a keen interest in civic affairs. He has a neat, well-kept home and is a jovial citizen of the community, a man widely known, frugal in his habits and honest in his business dealings. He has accumulated a snug fortune and is proud of the country of his adoption. He is a man of sincere purpose and his word is gilt-edged.

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### ISAAC NELSON YOUNG.

Those of the readers of this historical work, who live in and about Sugar Creek township, need no introduction to the gentleman whose name is noted above, but in order that the list of progressive, successful and representative citizens of Putnam county, presented in this volume, may not be broken, the biographer takes pleasure in here presenting a brief sketch of Mr. Young's career as being a matter of interesting information to those in remoter sections of the county who may not have the pleasure of his acquaintance, as well as a bit of valuable data to the future historian of Putnam county, who may have occasion to refer to these pages as an index and reflector of the present time.

Isaac Nelson Young was born in Delaware county, Ohio, close to the

town of Sunbury, on July 9, 1857, the son of Oliver and Caroline (Hiatt) Young, the former of whom was a native of the same county and state. Oliver Young was born in March, 1825, the son of Linderman Young, a native of New Hampshire, whose parents moved to New York during his early childhood and who, later, at the time he was about twelve years of age, moved to Ohio, locating in Delaware county, and, in 1862, went to Paulding county, where he remained till his death. For some time after his marriage, Oliver Young remained in Delaware county and was engaged in farming, a vocation to which he had been trained from boyhood, and it was in that county that Isaac Nelson Young was born. Later, the family moved to Paulding county, Ohio, where Oliver Young bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres at the point of the Auglaize river, where he lived the rest of his life, dying in the year 1882, at the great age of ninety-two years. Before moving to Paulding county, in the year 1862, Oliver Young had been quite successful in a number of real estate deals in Delaware county, and had bought and sold a number of farms there. He was a lifelong farmer and also gave considerable attention to the raising of live stock, horses and cattle in particular, and was a large feeder of Durham cattle. He was a good judge of live stock and was an extensive exhibitor at county fairs at a time when these expositions of the resources of the counties of Ohio were just coming in vogue, being a winner of many blue ribbons in such exhibits. Oliver Young was a very plain, slow-spoken man, whose judgments were regarded as excellent among his neighbors, and he wielded a large influence in the community in which he quickly became so decisive a factor. He was a member of the United Brethren church at Oakwood, in Paulding county, a staunch Republican and an active participant in all the good works of the community, both he and his good wife being held in the highest regard throughout that whole section in which their influence was so manifest, and to the best interests of which they were so devoted.

To Oliver and Caroline (Hiatt) Young were born ten children: Elizabeth, Amia, Isaac Nelson, Jacob, Eli and Evi (twins), Elias, Harrison, Daley and Nathan. Of these Elizabeth, Amia, Evi, Harrison and Daley are deceased. Jacob lives in Missouri; Eli is still a resident of Delaware county, Ohio; Elias resides in Paulding county, Ohio, and Nathan lives in Missouri.

Isaac Nelson Young was united in marriage on February 12, 1885, to Miss Mary Jane Anderson, who was born in Sugar Creek township, this county, on October 15, 1852, the daughter of Henry and Ann (Thomas) Anderson, the former of whom was a native of New York state and the latter of whom was born in South Wales.

Henry Anderson, who, in his day, was one of the most prominent and influential residents of Sugar Creek township, was born in the year 1818, and at the age of seven came with his parents from New York state to the state of Ohio, settling first in Marion county, close to the Sandusky river. Later, the Andersons moved to Putnam county, settling in Sugar Creek township, Henry at that time being about nineteen years of age. Some years later, they moved to the present Anderson farm in Sugar Creek township, which Henry and his father together purchased and which they cleared, and on which they spent the remainder of their lives, Henry Anderson dying in 1899, at the age of eighty-one.

On August 30, 1846, Henry Anderson was united in marriage to Ann Thomas, the daughter of Evan and Rachael (Thomas) Thomas, who was born in South Wales in May, 1818, and who came to America with her parents when she was thirteen years of age. Upon their arrival in this country, the Thomases, for a time, lived in Guernsey county, Ohio, later going to Allen county, locating at a point which is now the town of Gomar and after a some time residence there came to Putnam county, locating in Sugar Creek township, where they bought a farm near Vaughnsville, on which Mr. Thomas built a blacksmith shop and followed his trade of blacksmith till a short time before his death, which occurred on August 18, 1899, his wife's death occurring June on 30, 1887, at the age of sixty-nine years.

Henry and Ann (Thomas) Anderson were the parents of seven children, of whom William Henry and Mrs. Young are the only survivors, the deceased members of the family being Evan Thomas, Leonard, Mary, Jane, Sarah Ann, Charles Godfrey and George Washington.

Isaac Nelson Young grew up in Paulding county, he having been but seven years of age when his parents moved to that county from Delaware county. He received a good schooling in the township schools and learned the carpenter trade, at which he worked for several years after attaining his growth. He then went to northern Michigan, where, for two years, he worked as a cook in a lumber camp, at the end of which time he returned to Paulding county and worked on the farm for his grandfather for about three years. He then married and moved to Putnam county, buying a farm of forty acres in Sugar Creek township, on which he has since made his home. This property not being as much land as he could properly care for, he rented an additional forty acres adjoining and has been quite successful. He has a well-kept and well-stocked farm, everything on which is up to modern standards. Mr. Young also has a feed and chop grinder, run by gasoline engine of six-horse power. This grinder has been a source of great help and has been in use for ten years.

To Isaac Nelson and Mary Jane (Anderson) Young four children have been born; Anna, who married Henry H. Wilkins, of Columbus Grove, this county; Oliver W., who was graduated from Ada College with the degree of electrical engineer and is now holding that position at the great Mississippi river power-house dam at Keokuk, Iowa, having overseen the installing of the machinery there; Mary, who married William W. Hartoon, and who is residing on the home farm; and Laura, who also is at home.

Mr. Young is a good farmer and essentially a home man, taking great pleasure in his well-kept home and is devoted to his family. Like his father, he is a slow-spoken man, but excellent in judgment, of keen intellect and very companionable. Isaac Nelson Young, his wife and their children are very popular in the social circle in which they move, and are accounted as among the leading residents of that section of the county. Mr. Young is a Republican and takes a proper interest in politics, but is more or less independent in voting. He has served his township as assessor and is one of the active promoters of the best interests of his neighborhood.

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#### DAVID S. REYNOLDS.

The biographies of the representative men of a county bring to light many hidden treasures of mind, character and courage, well calculated to arouse the pride of their family and of the community. And it is a source of regret that the people are not more familiar with the personal history of such men, in the ranks of whom may be found tillers of the soil, mechanics and teachers, as well as lawyers, physicians, bankers and members of other vocations and professions. David S. Reynolds is one of the leading citizens of the township in which he lives, and as such has made his influence felt among his fellowmen, and earned a name for enterprise, integrity and honor that entitles him to worthy notice in a work of the nature of this volume.

David S. Reynolds is a native son of the old Buckeye state, having been born in Franklin county, on March 17, 1866. His parents were Roger and Elizabeth (Bowen) Reynolds. Roger Reynolds was born on January 14, 1801, in North Wales, and reared as a farmer, being employed as such by members of the nobility. He became known as an efficient and reliable farm superintendent, his duties being to oversee and direct the laborers on the estate where he was employed. He received his early education in the village parish and could speak Welsh fluently and English to a limited degree,



though able to understand the latter language thoroughly. He was one of a large family of children, and remained at home in his native country until about forty years of age. Prior to this time his father had died. His mother continued to reside on the little farm with her children. In 1841, Roger Reynolds embarked on a sailing vessel for America, the voyage requiring six weeks, and the emigrants landed at New York city, from which port he came directly to Franklin county, Ohio, locating at Columbus, where Mr. Reynolds at once sought employment. Among the emigrants who accompanied Mr. Reynolds to this country, was a young English girl by the name of Elizabeth Bowen. She had been reared in the Reformed church of England. Shortly after their arrival in Columbus, Roger Reynolds became engaged to her and eventually they were married. After this interesting event, they remained in Columbus for several years, during which time Mr. Reynolds was employed as a mason. But through the carelessness of his employer, who died, and who had never kept any books, after the settlement of the estate, Mr. Reynolds was compelled to present his private account as the only record of the time he worked with his employer. Since this man left no money, but had considerable real estate, Mr. Reynolds was compelled to take land in exchange for the money owing him as wages, which, this time, had increased until he received ninety acres of land, located in Franklin county, in exchange for it, and which, eventually, formed the basis of his homestead farm. This land, located three miles southwest of Hilliard, was heavily timbered and in its primeval condition, but undaunted by these conditions, Mr. Reynolds entered upon the task of clearing and improving it. He built a log cabin and a large barn, and eventually, by a persistent and untiring effort, succeeded in getting the land all cleared. He sold this land in 1867, and moved to Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, where he bought four hundred and fourteen acres of Jacob Gander, the land being located in the northwestern part of the township, and on the west bank of Hog creek. This land was also practically undeveloped, only a few acres being cleared, but it had on it a pretentious brick house of eight rooms and a double log barn, and a small frame barn, as well as a one-room log house. When Mr. Reynolds bought this farm, he lacked three thousand dollars of having enough to pay for it, and as he was well along in years and had a family of thirteen children to provide for, the outlook promised to be one of unceasing toil and perseverance if he was to succeed in securing a clear title to all the land. By dint of persistent energy, he succeeded in getting about two hundred acres cleared, or nearly half of the children were taken down with typhoid fever, which entailed an enormous expense for

doctors' services and extra help on the farm. The conditions prevented Mr. Reynolds from realizing his life's ambition of having his farm and home clear of debt, and in the midst of these struggles he died in June, 1881, at the ripe old age of eighty years.

Rogers Reynolds was a man of strong character and sturdy physique, else he would not have been able to carry on the enterprise to which he had applied himself. A great reader and close student and keen observer of events, he was well informed and was a most interesting conversationalist. He possessed strong convictions on moral and ethical questions, and was a faithful and consistent Christian in character. He was a stanch Republican, and a strong supporter of the Calvin Methodist church. His wife, Elizabeth, was also a member of this church, and survived her husband several years, dying in September, 1900. She was born near Manchester, England, on June 22, 1826, and at the time of her death was seventy-four years of age.

After her husband's death, Mrs. Elizabeth Reynolds sold the chattels on the farm and applied it to reduce the indebtedness. Then seven of the children bought out the interest of the remaining heirs, and each assumed one-seventh of the remaining debt. Each one also agreed to pay their mother a stated amount each year, and for this consideration each received from his mother a quit-claim deed to his share of the property. All this was done without one cent being expended for legal fees and was a splendid testimonial to the regard each had for the other's rights in the matter, and for their desire to live peacefully and in harmony. The thirteen children in this family were: Roger, Richard, Evan, Elizabeth, George, David, Thomas, Charles M., Benjamin F., Emma, Margaret, Mary and James F. The last named died at the age of three years. All the others grew to maturity, and all are living with the exception of Charles, who met his death as the result of an accident in September, 1910.

David S. Reynolds was eleven years of age when, on April 10, 1867, he came to Putnam county, and here he spent the years of his youth, receiving his education in the old McLain district school. Until twenty-two years of age, he remained under the homestead roof, and then, after his marriage, he started to farm for himself on the old home place, renting twelve acres the first year. After that he leased as much land as he could clear up, getting the crop for eight years in payment for his labors on that account. He continued to reside on part of the old home place until he bought twenty acres adjoining, to which he moved in about 1895. In the settlement of the paternal estate, he received and purchased from the heirs sixty-nine

acres, which, in addition to the land he had already purchased, made a total of ninety-six acres. He also rented twenty acres, and is thus operating one hundred and sixteen acres of land. He has carried forward his work in an intelligent and progressive manner, raising all the crops common to this section of the country, and has become very successful.

On March 7, 1878, David S. Reynolds was married to Lucetta Hoffer, a native of Jennings township, Putnam county, where she was born on April 10, 1856, the daughter of John and Lydia (Meyers) Hoffer. John Hoffer was a native of Switzerland, born in 1807, and in his youth came to America, locating at once in Fairfield county, Ohio, where he followed his trade, that of tailor. In that county he was married to Lydia Meyers, a daughter of Jacob and Annie Meyers, and remained there for several years after their marriage. He then moved to Allen county, where they remained until several years later, the family locating in Jennings township, Putnam county, where they spent the remainder of their days, the father dying in November, 1868, and the mother in October, 1891. John and Lydia Hoffer were the parents of eleven children, two of whom died in infancy; Isaac; Jacob; Andrew, deceased; Samuel, deceased; John; Jonas; Ann Elizabeth, who died at the age of one and one-half years; Sarah; Lucetta; Joseph and Lydia, the two last named dying in infancy. Four of the sons named above, Isaac, Jacob, Andrew and Jonas enlisted for service in the Civil War, and fought faithfully for their country, all surviving, except Andrew, who was brought home sick, dying shortly afterward. Mrs. Reynolds spent her girlhood in the old home place, receiving her education in the common schools, and was married at the age of twenty-two years.

To David S. and Lucetta (Meyers) Reynolds have been born the following children: Cora, on November 24, 1878, became the wife of John Krouse, and to them were born six children, Carlyle, Arnold, Alice, John M., Zella and Estella, the two latter being twins; Evans, January 26, 1881, married Maud Clevenger; Oral B., November 25, 1885, became the wife of Enoch Barnes, and the mother of two children, Kenneth and Reed; Sarah B., November 23, 1887, is the widow of William Musser; Francis, February 26, 1889, became the wife of Benjamin Evans, and they have one child, Willard; D. Raymond, February 21, 1892; Benjamin B., December 25, 1895; Ester, March 3, 1898; and one child which died in infancy.

David Reynolds is a staunch Republican, and has served his township as trustee for six years, and also several years as a member of the school board. He is a member of the Pleasant Valley Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is a steward and class leader. He is one of the most sub-

stantial and influential citizens of Sugar Creek township, and is widely and favorably known throughout his section of the county, being eminently deserving of special mention in a work of this character.

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### AARON HUYSMAN.

The true measure of individual success is determined by what one has accomplished. An enumeration of those men who have succeeded in their special vocations in Putnam county, Ohio, and who at the same time are impressing their personalities upon the community, men who are conferring honor upon the locality in which they reside, would be incomplete were there failure to make specific mention of Aaron Huysman, since he is an important factor in the agricultural life of Monterey township. The splendid success which has come to him has been the result of prodigious industry. He is possessed of a mind capable of laying judicious plans and a will strong enough to carry them into execution. His energy, foresight and perseverance have carried him forward to a position where he now occupies a foremost rank among the successful men of his community. He has carried forward to successful completion whatever he has undertaken. His business methods have been in strict conformity with the standard ethics of commercial life and he has taken an intelligent interest in the civic life of the community where he lives.

Aaron Huysman was born on December 15, 1838, in Holland, the son of Henry and Petronella Huysman. The family came to the United States in 1848 and settled in Monterey township, where Mr. and Mrs. Huysman lived until their deaths. The country was a wilderness in those days and they found it necessary to endure the ordinary privations of frontier life. The father died on April 17, 1893, and the mother on April 11, 1892. Both were members of the German Reformed church at Delphos.

Mr. and Mrs. Huysman were the parents of nine children: Wilhelmina, deceased; Mary, deceased; Aaron, the subject of this sketch; Walter, deceased; Henry died on board ship; Nellie; Henreche, deceased; Cornelius and Henry.

Aaron Huysman purchased eighty acres of land in 1860 from his father and continued to farm this land until the breaking out of the Civil War.

In July, 1862, Mr. Huysman enlisted in Company F, One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served nearly three



MR. AND MRS. AARON HUYSMAN.



years, or until the close of the war. He returned to Putnam county after the war and began work on his farm.

Mr. Huysman was married to Gretchen Osenga on October 31, 1867. To this happy but brief union two children were born, one of whom is living, Nellie, born on December 1, 1868. William, the other child, died in infancy. Nellie married Jacob Schramm, who died September 22, 1908. Mrs. Jacob Schramm and family live on a farm in Monterey township, north of Ottoville.

Mrs. Gretchen Huysman died on April 7, 1872, and Mr. Huysman was married, a second time, on December 8, 1872, to Mrs. Mary Miller, who was born on January 14, 1839, in Switzerland. She is the daughter of Jacob and Margaret Vogt. Her mother died in Switzerland in 1843 and her father came to the United States and settled in Sandusky county, Ohio, living there for a time, later moving to Van Wert county in 1855. Here he rented a farm for a time and later purchased a tract of land, where he died about 1905. To this second union of subject five children were born, four of whom are living: Margaret, born on October 10, 1874, died at the age of nine years; Aaron, Mary, Rickie and Bertha. Aaron, who was born on December 26, 1875, married Katie Baugh and has five children: Verna, born on November 13, 1901; Mabel, September 7, 1906; Elmer, January 30, 1909; Herbert, May 2, 1911, and Arthur, September 5, 1914; Mary, May 26, 1878, is at home; Rickie, September 20, 1880, married Alois Wurstner and lives near Dayton, Ohio. They have two children: Helen, born on April 9, 1903, and Byron, January 2, 1906, and Bertha married Joseph Remke and lives in Dayton, Ohio.

Mr. Huysman has added to his original farm of eighty acres until for a time he owned three hundred and five acres of well improved land. Mr. Huysman has given to all of his children considerable tracts of land and still owns a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He first settled on it in a log cabin, when it was heavily timbered, but the timber has been cleared away and his farm is well tiled. In fact, Mr. Huysman was one of the first men in Monterey township to tile his land. He was laughed at by the other farmers, who, a few years later, began to see the value of tiling and who began to do it themselves. Mr. Huysman has modern buildings on his farm. He is located south and west of Ottoville, about two and one-half miles.

Aaron Huysman and family are members of the Presbyterian church at Delphos, is a Republican and throughout his life has been more or less active in the councils of the Republican party and influential to a considerable de-

gree. For many years he has served his community as supervisor and in this office has behind him an excellent record. Few men are better known in Monterey township than Aaron Huysman and no man is more deserving of the respect and confidence in which he is held than the subject of this sketch.

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### JOHN F. MILLER.

Improvement and progress may well be said to form the keynote of the character of John F. Miller, a well-known and influential farmer of Sugar Creek township, and he has not only been interested in the work of advancing his individual affairs, but his influence is felt in upbuilding the community. He has been an industrious man all his life, trying to keep abreast of the times in every respect, and as a result, every mile-post of the years he has passed has found him further advanced, more prosperous, and with an increased number of friends.

John F. Miller was born on April 14, 1866, in Monroe township, Allen county, Ohio, the son of Henry and Mary (Sauer) Miller. Henry Miller was a native of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, born on April 29, 1841. His parents, Michael and Ann (Kunkleman) Miller, were farmer folks in their native country, and came to America in 1849, settling at McKeesport, Pennsylvania. Here Michael Miller remained for three years, when, after losing a son by an accident in the coal mines, he moved, in 1852, to Monroe township, Allen county, where he bought eighty acres of land, located about four miles southwest of Columbus Grove. There he remained during the rest of his life, his death occurring in October, 1879, at the age of seventy-three years, nine months and twenty days. To him and his wife were born six sons, one of whom died in infancy in Germany, the others being John, Leonard, Christopher, Henry and Adam. Michael Miller's wife, Annie, died in August, 1886, at the age of eighty years, her death occurring at the home of her son, Henry.

Henry Miller, the subject's father, was nine years of age when brought to America, and spent his youth in Allen county, where he received his education in the common schools. He remained with his parents until the time of his marriage to Mary Sauer, who was the daughter of Frank and Catherine (Harmon) Sauer. She was born in Prussia, Germany, and came to America with her parents at the age of nine years, her birth having occurred



on January 20, 1846, at which time the family came direct to Pickaway county, Ohio, where they lived a few years, and then located in Monroe township, Allen county, on a farm two and one-half miles south of Columbus Grove. After Henry Miller's marriage, he rented a farm in Monroe township, three and one-half miles southwest of Columbus Grove, where he remained for about six years. He then bought eighty acres of land, four and one-half miles southwest of Columbus Grove, to which he later added, by purchase, one hundred acres, and which is his present home farm. He has been a very successful farmer, and stands high in the community. To him and his wife were born fourteen children, Margaret, John F., Emma, Anna, Alice, Sarah, Caroline, Bertha, William, Harmon, Louis, Clara, Grace and Arthur. All are living and all are married, except Bertha, Grace and Arthur.

John F. Miller spent his early years under the parental roof, attending the district schools. He assisted his father on the home farm until his marriage, at the age of twenty-four years, following which, for two years, he operated his father's farm. He then bought fifty acres of land in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, southeast of Vaughnsville, where he lived for twelve years, at the end of which time he sold out, and, on March 9, 1905, bought sixty-six acres of land located one mile northeast of Vaughnsville. To this tract he has added forty acres, thus making his present holdings one hundred and six acres. This farm is splendidly improved in every respect, including a substantial seven-room residence, a large barn, and other necessary farm buildings, and in every respect he maintained the place according to up-to-date ideas, employing the best of machinery and improvements, and following advanced methods of agriculture.

On January 29, 1891, Mr. Miller was married to Lydia Jane Miller, who was born on March 25, 1868, in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, and a daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Best) Miller. Both of these parents are natives of eastern Ohio, the former born in Pickaway county and the latter in Clark county. To John F. and Lydia Jane (Miller) Miller have been born two children, Alta, on August 17, 1897, and Lloyd, February 25, 1900.

Mr. Miller is a Democrat, and is rendering efficient service as trustee of Sugar Creek township. It is noteworthy that Mr. Miller received within three votes of the highest vote ever polled by any Republican in Sugar Creek township. He is in sympathy with, and an attendant of, the Christian church, of which Mrs. Miller is an active member. As a citizen, Mr. Miller's character is above reproach, and he enjoys to a marked degree the esteem and confidence of those who know him.

## WILLIAM SAKEMILLER.

It is by no means an easy task to describe within the limits of this review a man who has lived an active and eminently useful life and, by his own exertion, reached a position of honor and trust in a line of industry with which his interests are allied. But biography finds justification, nevertheless, in the tracing and recording of such a life history, as the public claims a certain property interest in the career of every individual and the time invariably arrives when it becomes advisable to give the right publicity. It is then with a certain degree of satisfaction that the chronicler essays the task of touching upon such a record as has been that of William Sakemiller, a man who has been a successful farmer and honest citizen of Sugar Creek township.

William Sakemiller was born on April 14, 1868, in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, and is the son of Benjamin and Mary (Sherrick) Sakemiller. Benjamin Sakemiller is a native of the old Keystone state, born on March 4, 1825, and came to Allen county, Ohio, in 1838, at the age of thirteen years, with his parents, who settled about two miles north of Elida. Here Benjamin Sakemiller spent the remainder of his youth, on the farm which his parents had bought, and where they spent the remainder of their lives. Benjamin Sakemiller was married, in 1849, to Mary Sherrick, and some time afterward he moved to Jennings township, Putnam county, about three-quarters of a mile southeast of Rushmore, where he bought a farm and where he lived until 1866. Then, selling that place, he bought one hundred and ten acres, one mile north of Rimer, in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, to which, a few years later, he added forty acres, thus giving him a total acreage of one hundred and sixty acres. He was a hard-working farmer and, by persistent effort and good management, attained a definite success in his vocation. He was a Democrat in his political views and was a member of the Christian church. His death occurred, February 20, 1888. His wife, Mary Sherrick, was born on September 30, 1830, in Fairfield county, Ohio, the daughter of Christian and Anna (Myers) Sherrick. She came to Allen county, Ohio, with her parents, when she was a child and lived on the home farm, which adjoins that of William Sakemiller's grandfather. She was also a member of the Christian church and was a devoted wife and loving mother, and enjoyed the love and respect of all who knew her. She died on December 15, 1892, having survived her husband several years. To this worthy couple were born eleven children, two of whom died in infancy, the others being as follow: Rachel, the wife of J. H. Deffen-

baugh; Christian, who married Alice Guffy; Jane, the deceased wife of William Blakely; Sampson, who married Frances Benson; Charles, who died unmarried, at the age of forty-one years; Rebecca, the wife of George Glending; William, the subject of this sketch; Benjamin G., who is unmarried; and James W., who married Cora Thomas.

William Sakemiller, the immediate subject of this review, spent his childhood and youth under the parental roof, assisting, when old enough, in the cultivation of the home farm. He received his elementary education in the old Rimer district schools, but his education has been supplemented during subsequent years by much reading and close observation, so that today he is considered a well-informed man on general topics. He remained with his father until twenty-one years of age, when he assumed the management of the home place, continuing to operate the same for thirteen years. Mr. Sakemiller moved to the John G. Evans farm in 1903, where he lived for two years and, in 1905, bought the George Gander farm, which has been his home ever since. The place is beautifully situated on the west bank of the Ottawa river (Hog creek) and is well improved, containing a large brick residence, well arranged and comfortably furnished and surrounded with a splendid grove of evergreens, with numerous other outbuildings in keeping with the surroundings. Mr. Sakemiller has always carried on general farming operations, giving proper attention to rotation of crops and other up-to-date methods of successful agriculture and is one of the most successful and progressive farmers of his locality.

On February 23, 1892, Mr. Sakemiller was married to Maggie E. Funk, who was born in Nemaha county, Kansas, on December 30, 1870, the daughter of Samuel and Anna (Evans) Funk, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania, coming to Ohio with his parents in his youth and settling on Hog creek in the northwestern part of Sugar Creek township. Anna Evans was a native of Wales, coming to America with her parents when a child. After their marriage, Samuel and Anna Funk moved to Kansas, where they remained for a few years, but eventually returned to Putnam county, where they have resided since. Mrs. Funk died in the spring of 1877 and Mr. Funk is still living and resides at Sioux City, Iowa. Several years after the death of his first wife, he married Martha Dicus, of Putnam county, and to this union two children have been born, James and Zoe. To his first marriage, eight children were born, two of whom died in infancy, the others being John, who died in early childhood; Elizabeth, the wife of William Pfister; Maggie, the wife of Mr. Sakemiller; May, who died in 1902, at the age of twenty-eight years; Nora, the wife of William Jinks; and Frank, who died in 1912, at the age of thirty years.

To William and Maggie E. (Funk) Sakemiller have been born three children, John G., Breata L. and Norah Marie, all of whom live at home.

In his political affiliations, Mr. Sakemiller is allied with the Democratic party and, in the fall of 1913, was elected trustee of Sugar Creek township by a majority of seventy votes, in a strong Republican township. He is discharging the duties of this office to the entire satisfaction of his fellow citizens. Mr. Sakemiller is a member of the Ottawa River Christian church and takes a deep interest in the various lines of activity in this society. Mrs. Sakemiller is also a member of the same church. Mr. Sakemiller has, for many years, occupied a prominent place in his locality and has exerted a beneficial influence in the community. His chief characteristics are keenness of perception, a tireless energy, honesty of purpose and motive and everyday common sense, which have enabled him not only to advance his own interests, but also largely contribute to the moral and material advancement of the community.

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#### CHRISTIAN SAKEMILLER.

Specific mention is made of many of the worthy citizens of Putnam county within the pages of this work, citizens who have figured in the growth and development of this favored locality and whose interests have been identified with its every phase of progress, each contributing in his sphere of activity to the well-being of the community in which he resides and to the advancement of its normal and legitimate growth. Among this number is he whose name appears above, peculiar interest attaching to his career from the fact that practically his whole life has been spent in this section of the state.

Christian Sakemiller was born near Lima, Ohio, on January 14, 1852, the son of Benjamin and Mary (Sherrick) Sakemiller. Benjamin Sakemiller was a native of the old Keystone state, having come with his parents in boyhood, to Allen county, Ohio, settling near Elida. Here he remained until his marriage, when he located three miles northwest of Lima. He located just south of Rushmore, Jennings township, Putnam county in 1854, where they remained until 1865, when they located one mile north of Rimer, where they spent the remainder of their years. Mary Sherrick moved with her parents from Fairfield to Allen county, Ohio, in girlhood, and was there married.

Christian Sakemiller spent his early childhood in Jennings township and his later youth in Sugar Creek township, receiving his education in the old

Rimer district school. He continued to help his father in the operation of the home farm until the fall of 1874, when he engaged in agricultural operations on his own account. He is now the owner of one hundred and eighty acres of splendid land, which is improved in every respect, the improvements comprising a comfortable and well-arranged home and large and commodious barns and other necessary farm buildings. He has followed general farming and has given proper attention to rotation of crops and the fertilization of the soil, so that today he possesses one of the most fertile and productive farms in this locality.

On September 3, 1874, Mr. Sakemiller was married to Alice Guffey, who was born in Sugar Creek township, on November 30, 1853, the daughter of William and Mary Ann (Jacobs) Guffey. William Guffey was born in Franklin county, Ohio, on November 22, 1806, one of twins, the first-born children of John and Nancy (Pendleton) Guffey, natives of Kentucky. William Guffey was reared to the hardships of pioneer life and eventually settled down to farming, in which he was successful. He married Mary Ann Jacobs in 1834 and to this union were born ten children, of whom two died in infancy, those who grew to maturity being Samuel, of Kansas; Elizabeth, the wife of James Rhodes; Alexander, who died a prisoner of war; Annetta, who became the wife of Noah Myers; George and James, farmers; Sarah, who married John Cratty, and Alice, the wife of Mr. Sakemiller. To Christian and Alice (Guffey) Sakemiller have been born the following children: Elnora, on April 17, 1876, died at the age of nine months; William D., May 18, 1879, married Clara McBride and has two children, Roy and Lenor; Elsie M., November 26, 1882, is the wife of Grant O. Ashton, and has had two children, Nellie, who died at the age of two years, and Juanita Alice; Mary A., May 11, 1884, married John I. Thomas, and has five children, Blanche, Ruth, Ivan, Flossie and Marguerite; and Ray, September 4, 1890, who married Sarah Norman and lives at home.

Mr. Sakemiller is an earnest Democrat and takes an intelligent interest in the public affairs of his community. He is a member of the Ottawa River Christian church, of which he is a trustee and to which his wife also belongs. He is prominent in the affairs of the Kalida (Ohio) Mutual Life Stock Association, being a member of the board of directors and also holding the official position of treasurer. Strong and forceful in his relations with his fellow men, he has not only made his presence felt, but has also gained the good will and commendation of all who know him, ever retaining his reputation among them for integrity and high character.

## JOHN JACOB BRANT.

Upon the roll of representative citizens and prominent and influential pioneers of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, should be found the name of John Jacob Brant, who has lived in this county since his youth and who has worked his own way to a position of prominence in the business and agricultural life of that township. Mr. Brant is a man who enjoys the confidence and esteem of his neighbors and is honored and respected for his industry, his genial manners, his well-rounded and wholesome spirit of optimism in all things, private and public.

John Jacob Brant was born on February 2, 1859, in Franklin county, Ohio. He is the son of John and Elizabeth (Stauffer) Brant. John Brant was born in 1825, in Maryland, and died in 1897, at Kalida, Putnam county, Ohio. John Brant's mother died when he was but one and one-half years of age and his father died a year later. He was placed in a convent, where he remained for several years. Subsequently, he learned the blacksmith trade and when a young man went to Pennsylvania, settling in Lancaster county, where he met Elizabeth Stauffer. After their marriage, they remained in Pennsylvania for about nine years and it was here that three of their ten children were born. After this, John Brant moved to Franklin county, Ohio, where he worked at various occupations, raising truck, principally, for the Columbus market. At this time the foundation for the present state capitol of Ohio was being laid.

When John Jacob Brant was six years old his parents moved to Putnam county, coming overland in a covered wagon. They settled, in the fall of 1866, in the northwestern part of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, on the old John Clevenger farm. About a year later, they moved to the Jacob Gander farm and here they remained for five years. They lived for two years near Columbus Grove, on the John Bogart farm and then moved back to the Clevenger farm for two years. John Brant then purchased a home at Kalida, where he lived for five years. This was his final residence, with the exception of about a year spent in Paulding county. He spent practically the remaining nine years of his life in Kalida and died there in April, 1897. He was a powerfully built man physically and was always a hard worker. During his life, he cleared about two hundred acres of land in Putnam county. He was a lifelong Democrat in politics and a member, for many years, of the Ottawa River Christian church. Later he became a member of the Methodist church at Kalida.

Elizabeth Stauffer, the mother of John Jacob Brant, was born on April 13, 1835, in Pennsylvania. She spent her girlhood days in Lancaster county, where she was born. In fact, she remained there until her marriage. Eleven children were born to John and Elizabeth (Stauffer) Brant, Elizabeth, who died in infancy; Maria; Catherine; Fiana; Samuel H.; George W., deceased; John J., the subject of this sketch; Abraham L.; Margaret C., deceased; Alice Elizabeth and Charles E. Mrs. Elizabeth Brant is still living at Continental, Putnam county.

John Jacob Brant was six years old when his parents came to Putnam county and here he spent his childhood days and youth. He attended the common schools and helped his father, with whom he remained until he was twenty-four years of age. He was married, November 29, 1883, to Lydia M. Sneary, who was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, three miles north of Vaughnsville, on the homestead of her parents, on May 13, 1862. She was the daughter of John and Margaret (Myrlatt) Sneary. John Sneary was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, on February 1, 1876, and died on the old homestead, June 9, 1902. He was the son of John and Susannah (Turner) Sneary, who were likewise natives of Tuscarawas county, Ohio. They came to Putnam county when John was sixteen years of age and settled in the timber land. Here they established a home in the wilderness and it is on this homestead that John Jacob Brant now lives. John and Margaret Sneary had seven children, Mary Ann, who died when about seven years of age; George, who died when two years of age; James M.; Rebecca, who was killed by a traction car, August 11, 1913, when fifty-three years of age; Lydia M., the wife of Mr. Brant; William T. and Sarah Elizabeth.

After the marriage of Mr. Brant, he was employed on neighboring farms for two years and then rented the James Vale farm near Kalida, where he remained for five years. At the end of that period, he purchased the home farm of his wife from the heirs and has resided here since that time. This farm consists of eighty acres and is improved in every respect. It has a seven-room residence, nicely situated and a large barn, thirty-six by fifty-four feet, as well as a cattle shed, sixteen by sixty feet. Other buildings are in keeping with the surroundings. Mr. Brant has always done general farming and has been very successful.

To John Jacob and Lydia M. (Seary) Brant, six children have been born, Augusta Elizabeth, on November 22, 1884, who is the wife of Clarence E. Vandemark, and has had five children, Harold, Otho Maud, James Brant, who died at the age of three years, Virgil Leon and Lawrence Edwin; Frederick Forest, June 10, 1888, died on January 20, 1892; John Clifton, May 24,

1891, died on January 22, 1892; an infant son, who died at birth; Clarence Dewey, March 20, 1898, and Bessie Agatha, February 4, 1903.

John Jacob Brant in politics is a Democrat. He and his wife and family are all members of the Christian church at Vaughnsville. Mr. Brant is a clean-cut, progressive farmer and has managed to accumulate an exceptionally good farm of eighty acres. He is well and favorably known, not only in Sugar Creek, but in adjoining townships. His character and reputation have always been above reproach.

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#### CHARLES P. IRWIN.

Some farmers would find, if their books were balanced at the end of the year, that they could have made more money by working for a dollar a day for some one else, yet it would take careful balance to convince them of their loss. Some farmers, however, can tell almost definitely what the various departments of the farm are producing in the way of profit. The most progressive farmers of the present generation have devised simple methods of keeping track of their investments and their returns. Charles P. Irwin, a well-known farmer of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, has been successful because he has applied himself to the task of keeping separate accounting for his investment. Mr. Irwin is one of the progressive farmers of this section of Putnam county, who has discarded the rule-of-thumb method and who has undertaken to put his farm operations on a business basis.

Charles P. Irwin was born in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, on December 9, 1876. He is a son of Benjamin F. and Lydia Jane (Hayden) Irwin. Benjamin F. Irwin was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on November 30, 1821, and came to Putnam county in 1832. He was the son of Josiah Kennedy and Catherine (Barkman) Irwin. Benjamin F. Irwin's first wife, Sarah J. Leese, was born on April 26, 1836, and died June 28, 1861. By this marriage there were four children, Herman L., born on June 16, 1855; Margaret A., September 5, 1857; Eva, August 1, 1859, and Sarah J., June 28, 1861. After the death of his first wife, Sarah J. (Leese) Irwin, Benjamin F. Irwin was married again on March 28, 1864, to Lydia J. Hayden, who was born in Starke county, Ohio, on May 7, 1839, and was the daughter of Nathaniel and Eliza (Brothers) Hayden. To this second marriage the following children were born: Martha Emma, on March 9, 1865; Clement L., July 26, 1866, died on September 19, 1866; George T., September 20, 1867; Benjamin F., Jr., August 25, 1869; Nathaniel K., January 20, 1871; James



A., March 13, 1874; Charles P., the subject of this sketch, December 9, 1876; Kemmer L., May 16, 1879, and Guy, living in Pleasant township. Benjamin F. Irwin had an uncle in the War of 1812.

Benjamin F. Irwin was a successful farmer and he was especially successful in raising horses, and attributed his success to this department of the farm work. At one time he owned about six hundred acres of land in Pleasant and Sugar Creek townships.

Charles P. Irwin, the son of Benjamin F. and Lydia Jane (Hayden) Irwin, spent his youth and childhood on his father's old homestead and attended the old Turner district school. After finishing school he continued to help his father on the old home place until he was twenty-one years of age.

Charles P. Irwin was married on May 25, 1898, to Sarah Amanda Miller, who was born in Monroe township, Allen county, on May 3, 1873, and who was the daughter of Henry and Mary (Sauer) Miller. Henry Miller was born on April 29, 1841, in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, and died, March 7, 1912, on the old Miller homestead in Allen county. He came to America with his parents at the age of nine years and settled in Monroe township, Allen county. Here he lived the balance of his life. Henry was the son of Michael and Catherine (Kunkleman) Miller, and was one of four sons, the others being John, Christian and Adam. Mrs. Mary (Sauer) Miller was born in Prussia on January 21, 1847, and was the daughter of Frantz and Catherine (Harmon) Sauer. She came to America when seven years of age with her parents, who settled first in Pickaway county and a few years later moved to Monroe township, Allen county. Here Frantz Sauer lived the remainder of his life, dying June, 1904, at the age of seventy-four years. His wife, Catherine, still survives him and now resides with her daughter, Mrs. Minerva Holmes, at Loomis, Michigan. Frantz and Catherine Sauer had three children, Mary, Louisa and Minerva, all living. Henry and Mary Miller had fourteen children, all of whom are living and all of whom are married, except three. They are as follow: Margaret, John, Emma, Anna, Alice, Sarah, Caroline, Bertha, William, Harmon, Louis, Clara, Grace and Arthur.

After his marriage, Charles P. Irwin took up his residence on the east half of the one hundred and twenty acres owned by his father in the north-east part of Sugar Creek township. He has resided here ever since. Prior to his marriage one year, and for six years thereafter, Mr. Irwin and his brother, James, farmed in partnership. After the marriage of James A. Irwin the one hundred and twenty acres were divided. In addition to the

sixty acres which Mr. Irwin owned, he and his brother farmed forty acres adjoining on the southeast, making eighty acres which each has under cultivation. Mr. Irwin devotes particular attention to hogs and corn, and has been very successful.

Charles P. and Sarah Amanda (Miller) Irwin have had six children, as follow: Charles Clarence, deceased; Miller; Harold Arthur; Edith Grace; Ruth Marie, and Howard Martin.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Irwin attend the Christian church at Columbus Grove. Mr. Irwin is a Democrat. He has not, however, been especially active in political affairs, but has devoted himself almost exclusively to his life's vocation. Mr. Irwin is a man of sterling integrity, fair and square in his dealings with his fellow men and admired and respected by them.

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#### ALBERT REESE.

Few residents of Putnam county are as well and favorably known as the enterprising farmer and representative citizen, whose life story is briefly told in the following lines, and none stands higher than he in the esteem and confidence of the community in which he resides and for the material advancement of which he has devoted much of his time and influence.

Albert Reese was born in Butler county, Ohio, on November 17, 1866, the son of Evan and Margaret (Watkins) Reese. Evan Reese is a native of North Wales, having been born in the parish of Llangadfan on June 1, 1833. The paternal grandfather of Albert Reese was Robert Reese, who was a schoolmaster and music teacher for about twenty-five years. His first wife died when Evan Reese was about four years of age, and about five or six years later he was again married. To the first union were born seven children, Robert, Jr., Mary, John, David, Jane, Evan and Thomas. By the second union there was one child, Edward. All of these children, excepting the last named, came to America, settling first in Butler county, Ohio. Robert and Mary came over first, being followed a few years later by John, David, Jane and Thomas, and eventually Ivan came, being eighteen years of age at the time of his immigration. After reaching this country, he was employed on the farm of his brother, Robert, for a few years but, in about 1860, he came to Gomer, Allen county, Ohio, where he remained until the outbreak of the Civil War, when, faithful to his adopted country, he enlisted as a private in Company F, One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volun-

teer Infantry. He served throughout the war in the western army and, at the close of the conflict, received an honorable discharge, when he returned to Gomer, where he remained about one year and then, after his marriage, moved to Butler county, where, for about six years, he engaged in agricultural pursuits. Some years later they removed to Allen county and bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, near Gomer, the only improvement on the place being a log house, a frame barn and about one-half of the land cleared. To the clearing and the improvement of the remainder of this land, Mr. Reese devoted himself, and, eventually, found himself the owner of a finely improved and productive farm. About a year after locating on this place, he erected a small frame house of four rooms and about 1885 he bought eighty acres adjoining his farm on the west. On this rented place was a good set of buildings and the land was all cleared excepting about twenty-five or thirty acres. Here Mr. Reese remained until about 1890, when he moved to St. Marys, Ohio, where he has continued to reside, selling his former home in 1905.

Evan Reese was married three times. First to Margaret Watkins, who died in January, 1882. To this union were born seven children, Albert, Thomas R., David H., William E., Jennie Alice, Samuel and Jessie, the two latter children dying in infancy. About 1886, Evan Reese married Mrs. Mary (Watkins) Thomas, who died about three years later, leaving no children. In 1894, Mr. Reese married Addie Young, who is his present wife. To this union no children have been born.

Albert Reese spent his childhood and early youth on his father's farm near Vaughnsville, in Allen county, and received his education mainly in the district schools. When about twenty-three years of age, he took a course of music in the Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware but, aside from this, has been mainly self-educated, being a close reader and keen observer of men and events. He remained with his father on the old homestead until about twenty-six years of age, when he rented a farm near Vaughnsville and remained for two years. In the spring of 1895, he moved to the Bennett farm, to the cultivation of which he devoted himself until 1911, when he moved to Vaughnsville, where he now resides. He has, during these years, devoted himself to a general line of farming, raising all of the crops peculiar to this section of the country and has been very successful in all of his operations, being numbered among the intelligent and progressive farmers of his community. He has, for many years, occupied the front rank among the agriculturists of his locality and was one of the organizers of the Vaughnsville Crop and Improvement Association, one of the most influential organiza-

tions of its kind in this section of the state. He believes, most emphatically, in progress along his line and is interested in all things which have to do with the advancement of his community.

On February 17, 1893, Albert Reese was married to Jennie Bennett, who was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, on February 7, 1870, the daughter of John and Ann (Davis) Bennett, natives of North Wales. John Bennett came to America about 1868, settling in Van Wert county, Ohio, for a short time and later coming to Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, where he met Mrs. Ann (Davis) Garner, to whom he was married and to which union one child, Jennie, was born. To Albert and Jennie (Bennett) Reese have been born three children, Mabel, Marguerite and Mary.

Mr. Reese is an ardent exponent of Republican principles and has taken an active part in local political affairs. He was elected trustee of his township and also served as school director in his home district. In his party, he has long been prominent and served as a member of the county executive committee with efficiency and to the advantage of his party. Mr. and Mrs. Reese are faithful members of the Congregational church. Mr. Reese is a member of the official board and is active in the various interests of the church. He is a man who, in every respect, has merited the high esteem in which he is universally held, for he is characterized by public spirit, honest motives and a clean life.

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### JOSIRUS R. REESE.

An enterprising farmer of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, is Josirus R. Reese, who has made this county his home since 1865. He has been a life-long farmer, and, although the farm which his father bought here in 1872, was then a timbered swamp, today it is largely under cultivation and producing excellent crops. Most of this county was originally of a swampy nature, but under the skillful management of such farmers as Mr. Reese, it has been drained and made to blossom as the rose.

Josirus R. Reese, the son of John Y. and Lucinda (Handshy) Reese, was born in 1858, in Hancock county, Ohio. His father was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, in 1834, and was a son of Joseph and Mary (Young) Reese, who came from Washington county, Pennsylvania.

John Y. Reese was only about a year old when his parents moved from Trumbull county, Ohio, to Putnam county, and located along the county line

northeast of Bluffton. His parents bought government land and were among the first settlers in Riley township. John Y. Reese was reared to manhood in Putnam county, and later moved to Hancock county and married Lucinda Handshy, in 1857, who was born in this county, and is a daughter of Sebastian and Sarah (Nickerson) Handshy.

Sebastian Handshy was born in Germany and came to America with his parents, Jacob Handshy and wife, at the age of ten. The Handshys made their home in Fairfield county, Ohio, and Sebastian grew up in that county and there married Sarah Nickerson. Later, he moved to a farm near Columbus Grove, while the county was just being settled, their nearest neighbor being three miles away. The Handshys moved to Hancock county in 1837, where they lived the remainder of their lives. Lucinda Handshy grew to womanhood in Hancock county and was living there at the time of her marriage to John Y. Reese, who, with his family, moved to Putnam county in 1863, and located in Liberty township. Mr. Reese bought one hundred and twenty acres of land in 1872, north of the Ridge road, in section 15, of this township, and there made his permanent home. Two children were born to John Y. Reese and wife, Josirus R. and Martha Roselda. Martha R. married Perry Alleman, and had one son, Benjamin Harrison, who lives at Lima, Ohio. He married Etta Applegate, and has one son, Jesse Derrell.

Josirus R. Reese was about fourteen years of age when his his parents moved to the farm on which he is now living, and where he has since made his home. He helped his father to clear the land and to bring it under cultivation, which land was originally heavily timbered and so swampy as to be almost impassable. In fact, John Y. Reese said, a few years before he bought it, that he would not have it as a gift. The first house was a rude log cabin which previously stood on the Montouth farm on the southeast quarter of section 15, on the north side of the Ridge road, from whence it was moved to its present location, where it is still standing, being one of the oldest log cabins in the county. Josirus R. helped his father clear and drain the land and father and son worked together until the death of the father, on June 20, 1908, who was a man of strong character and was highly esteemed by his neighbors.

Josirus R. Reese has never married and now lives with his mother on the old home farm. About eighty-five acres of the one hundred and twenty are under cultivation, while the rest is still timber land. The family are members of the United Brethren church. Mr. Reese is a quiet and unassuming man, a good neighbor and deserves the respect which is accorded him by his fellow citizens.

## DANIEL RICHARD RISSER.

The best history of a community or state is that which deals most with the lives and activities of the people, especially of those, who by their own endeavors and indomitable energy, have forged to the front and placed themselves where they deserve the title of progressive men. In this brief review is to be found the record of one who has outstripped the less active brothers on the highway of life, and achieved a splendid career in business affairs, and a name which all men who know him delight to honor, owing to his upright life and habits of thrift and industry.

Daniel R. Risser, a successful business man and leading citizen of Vaughnsville, was born in Sugar Creek township, on August 27, 1865, and is a son of Daniel and Elizabeth M. (Smith) Risser. Daniel Risser, the father, was born in Durkheim, Bavaria, Germany, on January 1, 1836, the son of Abraham and Catherine (Sunzenich) Risser. In 1857, Daniel Risser came to America, first settling in Cleveland, Ohio, where he engaged in the operation of a transfer and bus line. On the outbreak of the Civil War, David and Christian Risser enlisted in the Union army, serving throughout that great struggle in the defense of their adopted country. Some time after locating in Cleveland, Daniel Risser went to Vera Cruz, Mexico, as an employe of a Cleveland concern who were engaged in the operation of a stage line from Vera Cruz across the isthmus to Tehuantepec. This venture, however, was not successful, and six months later Mr. Risser returned to Cleveland where he remained until 1859, when he and his brother Henry came to Putnam county, locating in Sugar Creek township, where they bought land. Daniel Risser bought eighty acres, located one and one-half miles southeast of Vaughnsville, which became the family homestead. At that time the only improvements on the place were a log cabin and stable, and but a small amount of the land had been cleared. Daniel Risser devoted himself to improving the farm, erecting substantial buildings, tiling and ditching the land, so that eventually it became one of the best-improved and most-productive pieces of farming land in that section of the county. He was very industrious and intelligent in his affairs, and by good management and economical habits, he became well to do and finally became the owner of seven hundred acres of land. He carried on general farming operations, in connection with which he gave considerable attention to the breeding and raising of live stock.

Daniel Risser died at the home of his son, Daniel R., at Vaughnsville, on September 15, 1902, at the age of sixty-six years, and his widow died here



DANIEL R. RISSEK.





on November 2, 1911, at the ripe old age of seventy-five years. She had been a consistent and faithful member of the Christian church for many years. Mr. Risser was a Democrat in politics, and in his religious belief was affiliated with the German Lutheran church.

At the age of twenty-six years, and on August 14, 1862, Daniel Risser was united in marriage to Elizabeth M. Smith, whose birth occurred in Ashland county, Ohio, on April 18, 1836. She was the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Risser) Smith, who came to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1865, buying the farm adjoining the one owned by Mr. Risser. There were five children in the Smith family, Mary, Elizabeth, Catherine, Charlotte and Jacob, all being now deceased, excepting the two last named. To Daniel and Elizabeth Risser were born six children, namely: Julius C., on February 25, 1864; Daniel R., the immediate subject of this sketch; Otto, December 20, 1867; John J., July 21, 1870; Emma L., February 28, 1873; Elizabeth A., October 28, 1876. All of these children are living, except Emma, who died on March 5, 1893, shortly after her marriage.

Daniel Richard Risser spent his childhood and youth on the old homestead farm in Sugar Creek township, assisting his father when old enough, in the cultivation and operation of the farm. His preliminary education was received in the old Michael district school, which was supplemented by later attendance at the Northwestern (Ohio) University at Ada, where he took a business course. Upon the completion of his studies, Mr. Risser returned to the home farm where he remained until the spring of 1892, when he engaged in the grain business at Vaughnsville, a business which demanded his time and attention continuously since that time. From the beginning Mr. Risser met with good success, and as he prospered he added other lines of business, including agricultural implements, tools, lumber and building supplies, in the handling of which he has met a long felt want in his community. In addition to his establishment at Vaughnsville, Mr. Risser also operates a similar concern at Rimer and Rushmore, this county, and is also interested in concerns of a like nature at Columbus Grove and Jenera, Hancock county. That he is a man of good business qualifications, is evident in the fact that he gives careful attention to the multitudinous details of these various establishments, all of which have been successful under his guidance. Mr. Risser, in connection with his brother also operates a quarter section of land in Allen county, and one hundred and eighty-seven acres in Wayne county, which he has found a profitable source of income. He is a stockholder in the Peoples Banking Company of Vaughnsville, and in various ways is actively and

materially interested in the business interests of his community. Broad-minded, sagacious and far-sighted, his counsel is considered valuable in all matters of business, and he stands high in the esteem of his contemporaries, being well and favorably known throughout this section of the state.

Mr. Risser is a Democrat, taking an active and intelligent interest in public affairs, and has served several terms efficiently as treasurer of Sugar Creek township. This township being, normally, strongly Republican in politics, it is a marked testimony to Mr. Risser's standing among his fellow citizens, that he, a Democrat, should successively be elected to this most important township office. Fraternally, he is a charter member of Vaughnsville Lodge No. 711, Knights of Pythias, and also belongs to Vaughnsville Lodge No. 312, Knights of the Maccabees. Mr. Risser has never married, and now resides with his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Redding, in Vaughnsville.

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### JAMES G. THOMAS.

The farmer of today must needs be more than the farmer of a half century ago, or even a decade past. He must be broader and more intelligent, his sympathies must be more diversified and his ideals must be higher and his ambitions wider. The farmer of today needs good, intellectual training, he needs scientific training, in fact. He, however, needs the practical science of education, somewhat different from that which the agricultural colleges are giving, and which are training young men to be agricultural scientists rather than practical farmers. The agricultural colleges, however, have done something to demonstrate that intellectual vision and mental activity are quite as necessary to successful farming as physical energy. James G. Thomas, a prominent farmer of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, is a man who especially believes in scientific training for the farm. Mr. Thomas is one of the well-known farmers residing near Vaughnsville.

James G. Thomas was born in Jennings township, Putnam county, on September 4, 1881, and is the son of John and Sarah (Good) Thomas. John Thomas was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, in 1845, where he died at Rimer in 1882. John Thomas was the son of James and ——— (Morgan) Thomas. James Thomas was born in Wales and came to America in the early days, settling near Gomer, in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county. John Thomas spent his childhood and youth on his

father's homestead farm. Here he received his early education and here he remained until his marriage. His occupation was thrashing, which he followed until the time of his death. He was married, at the age of about thirty, to Sarah Good, who was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1858, and who was the daughter of Isaac and Mary (Rhinehart) Good, the former was a native of Fairfield county, as well as his wife. They settled in Putnam county in the early days and lived in Sugar Creek township, and Jennings township. It was in the latter township that he lived at the time of his marriage to James G. Thomas's mother. They had two children, James G. and Bertha M., the latter of whom is the wife of Ellis Hess, and resides in Darke county, Ohio.

A few years after his marriage John Thomas died, in 1882, and after this his wife Sarah remained single until 1898, when she was married to Isaac Krouse. No children have been born to this last union. They now reside in Darke county, Ohio.

James G. Thomas spent his childhood on the home farm of his grandfather Good, where he lived for nine years. After this, his mother moved to Kalida, where he also lived for the ensuing four years. After his mother's second marriage, he moved to the farm of Isaac Krouse, in Jennings township, where they remained three or four years, when his mother and stepfather moved to Darke county. This was his residence until he was twenty-one years of age.

At this time, on September 17, 1902, Mr. Thomas was married to Cora Leona Sherrick, who was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, on February 1, 1882, and who is the daughter of David and Aseneth (Parcher) Sherrick. The former was born in Crawford county, Ohio, on October 29, 1837, and died in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, on June 1, 1912. He was the son of Joseph and Rebecca (Bibler) Sherrick, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, and who settled in Crawford county. They came later to Putnam county about 1865, and settled first near Rimer, and then near Columbus Grove, where he died. His wife, Rebecca, spent her last years with her son, David, in Sugar Creek township. David Sherrick came to Putnam county about 1863, and settled first at Pleasant valley, Jennings township. Later, he moved two and one-half miles north of Rimer, and here he and his wife resided for the remainder of their lives. David Sherrick was a successful farmer and owned one hundred and seventy-six acres of well-improved land. He was a member of the Pleasant Valley Methodist Episcopal church. His wife, Aseneth, was a member of the Ottawa River Christian church. Aseneth (Parcher) Sherrick was born on April 3,

1841, and died in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, March 31, 1906.

After his marriage, James G. Thomas took up his residence on the Sherrick home place and has resided here ever since. He has always done general farming, and has been an advocate, especially, of diversified farming. His home farm of one hundred acres is one of the best-improved farms in Sugar Creek township. It has a beautiful seven-room residence and a large and commodious barn and other buildings in keeping with the surroundings.

To James G. and Cora Leona (Sherrick) Thomas and wife have been born the following children: David, on July 15, 1903; Dale, April 22, 1906, and Devere, May 22, 1910.

Mr. Thomas is a member of the Pleasant Valley Methodist Episcopal church and is a trustee in this church. Mrs. Thomas is also a member. Mr. Thomas is a Republican. He is one of Sugar Creek township's progressive young farmers. He is well and favorably known and well liked by all his neighbors, not only in Sugar Creek township, but in adjoining townships.

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#### WILLIAM L. WOLLAM.

It is the farmer who makes it possible for man in other occupations to live. Farming was the original occupation of man and it is the only profession or business which could exist independently of all others. Indeed, every occupation is dependent upon the farmer. The products of the farm have made our railroads what they are today, and the great bulk of manufacturing is made necessary because of the farmer's needs. The people of the city could not live a week without the farmer's products. He holds not only the purse-strings of the nation, but even the very life of the people. For this reason the farmer has in reality the most important business of all. Putnam county has as fine farms and as good farmers as can be found anywhere in the state of Ohio, and among them is William L. Wollam, who is also a well-known automobile agent.

William L. Wollam was born on June 4, 1854, in Delaware county, Ohio. He is a son of Daniel and Rebecca (Evans) Wollam. Daniel Wollam was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1815, and about 1840 moved to Union county with his first wife, whose maiden name was Lite, and who died a short time after her marriage, leaving her husband with one child, a daughter, who died about 1905. He afterward married Rebecca Evans, and,

in 1888, moved to Hardin county, where his wife died, in 1889, at the age of fifty-four years, while he lived to reach the age of eighty-one years. He had four brothers and one sister. Peter, John and Jacob died in Union county, while Joseph died in Putnam county. Daniel Wollam was a son of Benjamin Wollam, who died in Fairfield county, Ohio. Benjamin's father was Baltzer Wollam, who died in Columbiana county, Ohio. Baltzer was a son of Jacob Wollam, who died in Berkeley county, West Virginia, in 1778. Jacob Wollam is supposed to have come from Germany. Daniel Wollam was a farmer throughout his active life, and owned a small farm and home in Hardin county, where he engaged in raising truck. He was a Democrat, and while he was a member of no church, he was reared as an adherent to the German Reform church, but was not an active member. Mrs. Rebecca (Evans) Wollam's parents came from Virginia, migrating to Ohio, where she was born and where she spent her womanhood.

Benjamin Wollam moved from Berkeley county, West Virginia, to near Martinsburg, Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1804, and here he built a cabin on the banks of Rush creek. He owned two hundred acres of land seven miles from Lancaster, Ohio, from which farm his children went to and from Lancaster to school, and to study the Heidelberg catechism under old Father Wise, one of the pioneer ministers of the German Reformed church. They were trained to be thorough and, subsequently, were successful in whatever they undertook.

Daniel and Rebecca (Evans) Wollam were the parents of nine children, Charlotte, who died at the age of fifteen years; William L., the immediate subject of this review; Levi, of Ada, Ohio; Christina, who is now Mrs. Foss, lives at Bradentown, Florida, but were formerly residents of Ada, Ohio; John, a piano tuner of Cherryville, Kansas; James, who died at the age of fifteen years; Frank, living at Columbus, Ohio, where he is a teacher in the public schools; Mary, the wife of Frank Wright, Ada, Ohio; Missouri, the wife of Frank Sliger, of Columbus, Ohio; Charles, who died at the age of nineteen years.

William L. Wollam grew up in Delaware county, Ohio, and came to Putnam county at the age of twenty-eight years in 1881, settling at Dupont, where he resided for fifteen years. He was educated in the public schools of Delaware county.

Mr. Wollam was married on October 7, 1882, to Ida Davis, a native of Vermillion county, Illinois, born on May 20, 1863, the daughter of Richard and Mary A. (Layton) Davis. Richard Davis was born in Pennsylvania on March 3, 1823. His parents moved to Marion, Ohio, about four years later,

where he was married to Mary A. Layton, of that county, in 1845. They moved to Vermilion county, Illinois, in 1853, where they resided for seventeen years. They moved to Bryan in 1871, where they spent their declining years. Richard Davis died at Bryan, July 13, 1909, at the age of eighty-six years. His wife, who was born in Pennsylvania on May 10, 1828, died at Bryan, January 30, 1908, the age of eighty years. She moved with her parents to Marion county, in 1831. Eleven daughters were born to Richard and Mary A. (Layton) Davis, eight of whom are still living, Mrs. Wollam being the ninth daughter born to her parents. Mrs. Mary A. (Layton) Davis was a member of the Christian church at Bryan, Ohio.

William L. and Ida (Davis) Wollam are the parents of seven children, Zoe, who is in the employ of the Ann Arbor Railway Company, of Toledo, Ohio, where she is in the auditor's office, and has been there for nine years; Rolly R., living in Young America, Minnesota, where he is operating a meat market; Edith, the wife of J. H. Rutledge, lives in Montana, near Powers, on a ranch, and they have one child, William; Mary Rebecca, the wife of John Potts, has one child, Zoe; Helen, at home, is employed in the Continental Bank, where she is bookkeeper; Walter, living at home, and Agnes, the youngest of the family, is also living at home with her parents.

William L. Wollam left Dupont, Ohio, for the farm he had purchased while living there. Mr. Wollam traded a horse and buggy, one hundred dollars in money, and a note for one hundred and seventy-five dollars for forty acres of land in Putnam county. He came to this place and cleared up the land, afterward returning to his old home in Delaware county, Ohio, where he worked for fifteen dollars a month to assist in paying off the note on his land, and by hard work, succeeded in paying the note, and now has a splendid farm. He came from Delaware county with several companions in a covered wagon, and hunted deer on the way. Mr. Wollam, subsequently, bought sixty acres across the road from his original forty. He farmed until March, 1913, when he moved to Continental, where he is now living. Mr. Wollam has written insurance for the past thirty years. He has also been in the organ and piano business for a part of that time, and sold musical instruments all over the northwestern part of Ohio. In June, 1914, he contracted for the agency of the Overland automobile, and has the exclusive right to sell this machine in Putnam county. He is active in the sale of automobiles and has built up a big business in Putnam county.

Fraternally, Mr. Wollam is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, having taken all the degrees of this order, including the thirty-second. He was a charter member of the first Knights of Pythias lodge in Putnam

county, which was started in Dupont. He was also a charter member of the lodge of Independent Order of Odd Fellows in Dupont, but is not active in either of the latter lodges at the present time. He joined the Masonic order at Kalida, Ohio, and became a charter member of the lodge at Continental, where he was the first secretary. Mr. Wollam belongs to the blue lodge at Continental, the chapter at Ottawa, the Knights Templar at Defiance, and the consistory at Toledo, Ohio. With the exception of his membership on the county board of elections, for the past eight years, Mr. Wollam has not held office. He is a stanch Democrat. Mrs. Wollam is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Continental. For many years Mr. Wollam has been a member of the school board and active in educational affairs in the community where he lives. He is an active member of the agricultural board and superintendent of speed which position he has held for many years. He is a man of untiring energy, well and favorably known throughout Putnam county and bears a high reputation in the community for fair and square dealing.

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#### JOHN HENRY MEYER.

Men who have cleared the land, drained the swamps and erected new buildings and fences, making the soil teem with growing crops, are entitled to the rank of the foremost citizens of any community. John Henry Meyer, an enterprising farmer of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, has done all of these things.

John Henry Meyer was born at Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, the son of Gerhard B. and Mary (Moening) Meyer. Gerard B. Meyer was born in Germany, the son of Theodore and Anna Mary (Mersman) Meyer, who were born and married in Germany and came to Glandorf, Putnam county, about 1834. Theodore Meyer helped to build the canal. He had many thrilling experiences with the Indians who came to this place at that time. On one occasion the mother went to Lima to get flour and walked all the way, carrying the flour on her shoulder. Theodore Meyer cleared the land on Cranberry creek, southwest of Ottawa, and there spent his life. They reared a family of five children: Gerhard B., Bernard, Theodore, Mary Theresa and George Henry.

John H. Meyer is one of six sons and three daughters, of whom one son died when eight years old; the others are Henry, Theodore, Joseph Herman, Frank, Mary, Katie and Elizabeth. Katie married and died about

nine years ago, leaving one son, Frank. The other brothers and sisters are all living.

John Henry Meyer lived at home until twenty-two years old when, in 1880, he was married to Katie Ellerbrock, the daughter of Ferdinand and Theresa (Kleman) Ellerbrock. She died in 1907. She was the mother of two sons and five daughters, Elizabeth, Theresa, Lucy, Minnie, Harry, Clara and Edward. Elizabeth is the wife of Charles Niese and lives on a farm near Ottawa. They have three children. Theresa, the wife of Casper Schmenk, lives in New Cleveland, Liberty township, and has three children; Lucy, the wife of Theodore Ruhe, lives at Miller City and has three children; Minnie, the wife of Frank Schroeder, lives north of Leipsic in Van Buren township and has three sons; Harry is at home; Clara is the wife of Walter Klass and lives at Miller City, and Edward is still at home.

After Mr. Meyer's first marriage he began farming about three miles southwest of Leipsic and five miles north of Ottawa, where he bought eighty acres of undrained land, and there were many water holes. He put this land in a state of cultivation and built an entire new group of buildings, including a splendid new brick house. He now owns one hundred and ninety acres of land, one hundred and fifty in the home farm and forty in Ottawa township. Mr. Meyer has operated a threshing outfit ever since he was a young man and is widely known as the most successful thresher in the community.

In 1909 he married Mrs. Annie (Lammers) Schroeder, the widow of John William Schroeder. She was born and reared at New Cleveland, the daughter of Henry and Gertrude (Siebeneck) Lammers.

Henry Lammers came from Germany and Mrs. Lammers was born at Glandorf, a daughter of Bernard Henry and Gertrude (Inkrot) Siebeneck. Bernard H. Siebeneck was born near Munster in Prussia and came to the United States, about 1835, and entered government land in Greensburg township. He remained there a year, when he went back to Germany and married there. Returning with his wife, they lived in Greensburg township the rest of their lives. Henry Lammers was a son of John Lammers and wife and came to America probably as early as 1850 and became a well-known farmer, spending the rest of his life on his farm in the northeastern part of Ottawa township, where his widow still resides.

Mrs. Meyer's first husband was J. William Schroeder, who was born on March 6, 1857, and died March 17, 1901. He was born at Glandorf, the son of Charles and Agnes (Hohenbrink) Schroeder. Charles Schroeder was born at Ostercappeln, Germany, and came to America at the age of six



years, about 1834, with his parents, Nicholas and Anna Schroeder, who settled in the wild woods of Greensburg township and suffered many privations of pioneer life, but in time the family prospered and Charles Schroeder became a successful farmer, owning over seven hundred acres of land. His son, J. William Schroeder, farmed at New Cleveland until his death.

Mrs. Meyer had seven children by her first marriage, four sons and three daughters: Charles, Frank, Jerome, August, Mary, Anna and Martha. Charles married Millie Kuhlman and has three children; Frank married Mr. Meyer's daughter Minnie the same day Mr. Meyer married Frank's mother; Mary is the wife of William Kuhlman; Anna married Charles Kuhlman and has two children living and one dead. Mr. Schroeder died in 1902. He was a life-long farmer.

Mr. and Mrs. Meyer and family are all members of the Catholic church at New Cleveland and are liberal contributors to its support.

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#### DANIEL MILLER ALLEN.

The history of a county or state, as well as that of a nation, is chiefly a chronicle of the lives and deeds of those who have conferred honor and dignity upon society. The world judges the character of a community by those of its representative citizens and yields its tribute of admiration and respect to those whose works of action constitute the records of a community's prosperity and pride. Among the prominent citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, who are well-known because of their success in business affairs and the part they have taken in the educational and religious affairs of the locality, is Daniel Miller Allen, now a well-known real estate broker and insurance agent of Columbus Grove.

Daniel Miller Allen was born on June 30, 1868, in Auglaize county, Ohio. He is the son of Silas D. and Permelia C. (Miller) Allen. Silas D. Allen was born on August 18, 1844, in Auglaize county, the son of Warren C. and Mary (Coleman) Allen. Warren C. Allen was a native of Fairfield county, and came to Auglaize county in 1836, where he settled on land entered by his father, Whiting Allen. He continued to live in Auglaize county the remainder of his life, and died in 1859.

Silas D. Allen was reared on the old homestead farm and, at the age of seventeen, enlisted in the Forty-fifth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving through most of the war. His enlistment was made in 1862, and he

served three years, being discharged on June 9, 1865. His services were performed under Generals Gilmore and Burnside. On November 18, 1863, he was captured at Knoxville, Tennessee, and held a prisoner for fifteen months and eight days. During this time he was confined in the military prisons of Atlanta, Richmond, Belle Island, Andersonville, Charleston, South Carolina, Florence, South Carolina, and Goldsborough, North Carolina. From the last named prison he was paroled.

After the war, Silas D. Allen was married to Permelia C. Miller, who bore him three children: Mary S.; Daniel M., the subject of this sketch, and Arvilla D. Mary S. first married Grant D. Martin, who died about six years later. About eight years after her husband's death she married Isaac Willis Slagle and they now reside in Spokane, Washington. Arvilla D. is the widow of G. H. Daniels and now conducts a book store at Columbus Grove. For a time after his marriage Silas D. Allen engaged in farming and then went into the boot and shoe business at St. John's, Auglaize county, where he continued to do business for several years, which business he continued after he removed to Columbus Grove. A short time later he took up farming and truck gardening, which he continued for a few days. He then entered the butchering business and finally became interested with W. A. Perkins in the lumber and fork-handle manufacturing business, where he retained an interest for four years. Subsequently, he engaged in raising potatoes and sugar beets.

Silas D. Allen's wife, Permelia C. Miller, was born in Auglaize county, and is the daughter of Daniel and Susanna (Kingery) Miller, the former a native of Piqua county and the latter a native of Paulding county, where they were pioneers.

When Daniel Miller Allen was about four years old he came with his parents to Columbus Grove, and here attended the public schools until sixteen years of age, after which he took a commercial course at the Tri-State Normal College at Angola. After this he returned to Columbus Grove, and a little later took a position with the J. R. Hughes Wholesale and Retail House Furnishing Company. After about one and one-half years he became the manager of this concern and continued in this capacity for about two and one-half years longer. On account of ill health, he returned home, and about a year later, on June 16, 1893, he entered the insurance and real estate business with G. W. Core. A year later Mr. Allen purchased Mr. Core's interest and since that time has conducted the business alone. Mr. Allen has been very successful in this business and served a large clientele in the purchase and sale of real estate and in the insurance business. In addition to his other business, Mr. Allen, in 1906, in connection with B. F. Lugibihl, organized

the Columbus Grove Brick and Tile Company, which business has grown to be one of the best and largest in this section of Ohio.

Daniel M. Allen was married on June 12, 1895, to Mabel Halcyon Long, the daughter of Newton S. and Carrie C. (Stahl) Long. Mrs. Allen was one of three children and the eldest of the family; Medway D., who married Edna Gable and is bookkeeper in the Peoples Bank, and Clyde M., who is single and at home. Newton S. Long is now retired and lives at Columbus Grove. He has been a minister of the United Brethren church, as was his father before him, who was a pioneer circuit-rider and traveled over a large circuit in northwestern Ohio. He was a man noted for his strong character and for his wonderful voice. Mrs. Long's parents were pioneers of Sandusky county and came to this country from Germany in an early day.

Mr. Allen is a Republican. He has filled several positions of trust and responsibility, having been a member of the school board for twelve years, a member of the council for four years and a member of the board of public affairs for two years. Mr. Allen is a member of Lodge No. 364, Free and Accepted Masons, of the Knights of Pythias and of the Modern Woodmen of America. He and his wife and family are members of the United Brethren church, in which Mr. Allen is a trustee. In 1912 he was a delegate to the general conference of the church in Decatur, Illinois. Daniel M. Allen is a man highly esteemed in the community where he lives, a man known for his many good works, for his sterling integrity, his genial disposition and his natural powers of leadership.

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#### PETER SEITZ.

The record of the gentleman whose name introduces this article contains no exciting chapter of tragic events, but is replete with well-defined purposes which won for him an influential place in business circles and high personal standing among his fellow citizens. His life work has been one of unceasing industry and perseverance and the systematic and honorable methods which he has ever followed have resulted, not only in gaining the confidence of those with whom he has had dealings, but also in the gaining of material prosperity for himself.

Peter Seitz was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, on October 30, 1882, and is a son of Benjamin F. and Sarah J. (Funk) Seitz. For a sketch containing his paternal and ancestral history, the reader is

referred to the sketch of Benjamin F. Seitz, which appears elsewhere in this book.

Peter Seitz was reared on the paternal homestead, four miles northwest of Vaughnsville, and his education was received in the old Seitz district school. After completing his common school course, he took a normal course of study at the Palmer University at Muncie, Indiana. Upon the completion of his studies, he returned home and for a while farmed a portion of his father's land. In 1904, he was married and during the following four or five years continued to operate a part of the paternal farm and then took charge of the entire place, his father having moved to Columbus Grove. In the spring of 1913, Mr. Seitz bought eighty acres of land west of Hog creek, to the operation of which he gave his attention for two years and then, in the spring of 1914, returned to the old home place, where he now resides. Because of his character and the success which he has attained in his chosen vocation, he is well and favorably known throughout this section of the county. He maintains the farm at the highest standard of agricultural excellence and, by following up-to-date and progressive ideas, has succeeded in receiving a noteworthy success.

On February 10, 1904, Mr. Seitz was married to Dulia Dreasky, who was born in Jackson township, Putnam county, on April 7, 1880, the daughter of Arthur and Nora (Dray) Dreasky. She was one of three children, the others being Myrtle and Alonzo. Arthur Dreasky was born on September 28, 1853, near Bucyrus, Ohio, the son of George and Rebecca (Meadly) Dreasky, the former of whom was a native of Germany and a pioneer settler of Ohio. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. His wife, Rebecca Meadly, was a native of this country. Mrs. Seitz's mother, Nora Dray, was born in West Virginia, near Steubenville, Ohio, December 30, 1860, the daughter of John W. and Judith (Fisher) Dray, both of whom were natives of Steubenville, Ohio.

To Peter and Dulia (Dreasky) Seitz have been born four children, Charles, on March 21, 1905; Clarence, April 13, 1906, died on September 25, 1907; Blanche, September 27, 1907, and Myrtle, October 15, 1909.

Mr. Seitz is a Democrat and takes an intelligent and commendable interest in local affairs. He is a member of the Ottawa River Christian church, of which he is a trustee and of which Mrs. Seitz is also a member. He is also a member of the Valley Grange, of which he is the present overseer. In every phase of life's activities, he has performed his part to the best of his ability and has earned the commendation and approval of all who know him.

## ANTON KUHLMAN.

Philosophy and experience teach us that society is more quickly ameliorated and best improved by the advancement of the individual. That is to say, if a person will attend to his or her own uplift, it stands as a matter of course that the entire body of society will benefit thereby. The greatest factor in this work is example; the life and deeds of every individual are sure to react upon their fellows. The proof of this is found in the study of the life of Anton Kuhlman, who has materially aided his community by a quiet and unassuming example.

Anton Kuhlman was born in Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, on March 26, 1850, his parents being John Theodore and Anna (Schwatzengraber) Kuhlman, who were also the parents of Theodore, Barney and Henry, who live on adjoining farms in Ottawa township. Frank and John are both deceased.

Born in Germany, Theodore Kuhlman came to America with his parents at the age of fourteen. He was mechanically inclined, and when not working on the farm made machinery in a small shop, making three separators, two of which he sold, keeping the other for his own use. Altogether he accumulated six hundred acres of land, which he bought uncleared and made valuable by hard work. To each of three sons he deeded one hundred and seven acres, and to the other son, Theodore, he gave eighty acres. Theodore, the elder, followed general farming throughout his life and died on the farm January 6, 1889. He was a power in the community, a member of the Catholic church and was a Democrat.

It is related of Theodore Kuhlman that he was compelled, in pioneer days, to take his pork and grain to Defiance, in a boat built by himself, which would hold five hundred bushels of wheat. For this boat he hewed his own lumber; its proportions were seventy-four feet long and six feet wide. Pork was packed on top of the wheat. Theodore slept in the boat during his trips.

Anna Kuhlman was also born in Germany and came to America with her parents about two years later than did her future husband. Her parents also settled in Glandorf. She died, August 18, 1877, mourned as a kind neighbor and a loving mother.

Living at home until his marriage, Anton Kuhlman located on the place given him by his father, which he cleared, fenced and drained, and on which he built numerous new buildings. At the present time he is an influential farmer, an automobile enthusiast and a good roads advocate.

On May 26, 1874, Mr. Kuhlman was married a second time, to Agnes Lefken, the daughter of Henry and Theresa (Hundepohl) Lefken, the former of whom was a native of Germany, who settled on an uncleared Putnam county farm in the early days, and became a successful farmer. He and his wife had six children: Elizabeth, who married Barney Gerding; Mrs. Myrtle Kuhlman; Mrs. Anna Kuhlman, who died on December 2, 1910; Agnes, the wife of the subject; Magdalena married Frank Doepper and lives in Glandorf; Mrs. Helena Becker is deceased. To Anton and Agnes (Lefken) Kuhlman and wife were born the six children described as follow: Barney, who married Emma Helker, lives on an Ottawa township farm and has four children, Hilda, Leona, Bernard and Louisa; William married Mary Schroeder and lives on an Ottawa township farm; Andrew married Mary Lammers and lives on a farm in Blanchard township, and has three children, Arthur, Carl and Genevieve; Emma, who married Joseph Schmenk, lives on Ottawa township farm and has four children, Rudolph, Mildred, Elmer and Alice; George married Susan Nadler and lives in the parental home; Harry also lives at home.

An active worker in the Democratic party, Mr. Kuhlman has never sought office. He is a member of the New Cleveland Catholic church, as is his family. Mr. Kuhlman is congenial, stands high in the regard of his neighbors, and supports all movements which will benefit the county. He is a kind and loving father and so lives that his example is a powerful agent for good.

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#### THOMAS MILTON TEEGARDIN.

Among the men in Putnam county who has won the confidence and high esteem of his friends, neighbors and fellow citizens, is Thomas Milton Teegardin who has grown up in this community and has always led an exemplary life. Having kept within the bounds of the straight and narrow path in the pursuit of all that is good in this life and pointed out as one worthy of the recognition of the historian, it is without any limitation except for space that we record the ancestry and work of the subject of this review.

Thomas Milton Teegardin was born on September 6, 1874, in Columbus Grove, Ohio, and is the son of Joseph H. and Sarah E. (Mayberry) Teegardin. His father, Joseph H., was born on March 19, 1840, in Monroe township, in Allen county, and was the son of Henry and Rachel (Decker) Teegardin. Henry Teegardin was born in Franklin county, on September

19, 1810, and there married Rachel Decker on October 28, 1834. At a later date, they came to Allen county, where he farmed one hundred and sixty acres until the time of his death which occurred, January 31, 1856. To them were born nine children, Polly (Mrs. Knouse), deceased; Betsey (Mrs. Murphy); Joseph; Peter; Jackson; Sarah Ann; John, all of whom are now deceased; William and Daniel. After the death of Henry Teegardin, his wife was married, a second time, to James Mayberry, who died on April 10, 1867; she died, February 8, 1899. To this union there was one child born, Ida Annis (Mrs. Griffith), on May 22, 1862, and who now lives in the town of Hicksville, Ohio.

Joseph H. Teegardin remained under the parental roof during his youthful days and received his education in the township schools of Monroe township. He remained with his father until the time of his marriage, after which he farmed a forty-acre tract which was deeded to him by his father at a later date. He remained on this place for a while and then decided to sell out and remove to Putnam county, where he located in Columbus Grove. In this locality, he made it a business to farm at various places in the township, his principal vocation, however, being the operation of a threshing outfit in season, and teaming. A few years later, he bought a farm in Pleasant township, northwest of Columbus Grove, where he continued the business of farming until the year of his death, which occurred on March 11, 1891. His wife, Sarah E. Mayberry, was a native of Plum Creek, Pleasant township, this county, and was born May 13, 1843, a daughter of James Mayberry and wife. She grew to womanhood on her father's farm and, at the present time, resides in Lima, Ohio. Four children were born to their union, James of Sugar Creek township, this county; William, who lives in Michigan; Thomas Milton, and Emma, deceased. The father was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Columbus Grove, and a supporter of the Democratic party, yet was not active in politics. He was brought up in the faith of the Christian church, but was not closely affiliated with church affairs.

After spending his boyhood days in the town of Columbus Grove with his father, and later moving with him to the farm in Sugar Creek township, where he remained until his father's death, Thomas Milton Teegardin was married on December 14, 1898, to Cora Keirns, daughter of Samuel H. and Emma Jane (Deffenbaugh) Keirns, the life history of whom will be found elsewhere in this history under the name of Samuel H. Keirns. A short time after his marriage, Thomas M., moved to the farm of his father-in-law and remained there until he bought his present fifty-five acre farm in Pleasant

township. On this farm, besides the raising of a general line of crops, he gives special attention to thoroughbred Ohio Improved Chester hogs, and also feeds a large herd of dairy cattle.

To Thomas Milton Teegardin and wife have been born four children, Emil O. Roy, Samuel and Plummer, all of whom reside with their parents. Mr. Teegardin is an active member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 376, of Columbus Grove, he is a consistent supporter of the Democratic party, and the family belong to the Christian church, where the father is one of the trustees and a teacher of the boy's Sunday school class; Mrs. Teegardin also teaches the young women's class. Personally, he is well regarded by all his friends and acquaintances, is a good christian gentleman of genial, unassuming disposition. In a business way he is looked upon as a man of splendid judgment in live stock and is ever alert to lend his support to progressive ideas and modern methods.

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#### WILLIAM BASINGER.

In a brief sketch of any living citizen it is difficult to do him exact and impartial justice. Not so much, however, for the lack of space or words to set forth the familiar and passing events of his personal history, as for want of the perfect and rounded conception of his whole life, which grows, develops and ripens like fruit to disclose its truest and best flavor only when it is mellowed by time. Daily contact with a man, so familiarizes us with his virtues that we ordinarily overlook them and commonly underestimate their possessor. It is not often that true honor, public or private, that honor which is a tribute of cordial respect and esteem, comes to a man without basis in character and deeds. During a residence of nearly fifty years in Putnam county, the people have had an opportunity to know what manner of man William Basinger is. The testimony is ample that he is a good citizen in the full sense of the term and worthy of honor and public trust. Mr. Basinger is a man who has risen to a place of prominence in his community and who, in every way, has proved himself a worthy son of a conscientious, God-fearing father.

William Basinger was born on March 9, 1868, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Christian and Regina (Lugibihl) Basinger, the latter of whom has been dead for many years. Christian Basinger, who is now living retired, is a man of sterling character and a man





WILLIAM BASINGER.



greatly esteemed by all with whom his busy life has brought him in contact. He resigned the presidency of the Peoples Bank at Columbus Grove at the annual election held in 1914, on account of ill health. He was compelled to seek relief by a trip West, to the famous Mayo Brothers Institute, at Rochester, Minnesota. An operation here relieved him and he is now on the way to recovery.

Christian Basinger is one of the leading citizens, and has been one of the leading farmers in Putnam county. He was born in Riley township, Putnam county, on March 12, 1846, the son of John D. and Elizabeth (Moser) Basinger, both natives of Switzerland. John D. Basinger was of French descent and came to the United States when eighteen years of age with his mother, his father having died in the old country. They settled first in Wayne county, but, subsequently, came on to Putnam county. Elizabeth Moser was twelve years old when she came to this country. They were farmers in Riley township. John D. Basinger died in 1885, at the age of sixty-nine years. Christian Basinger was one of seven children born to his parents, John D., who lives at Lafayette, Indiana; Mrs. Elizabeth Leibe, who lives at Columbus Grove; Mary, the wife of Peter Zeurcher, of Kansas City; Magdalena, who died shortly after her marriage; John Kratz and Peter, who died young.

Christian Basinger was reared in Riley township and there received his education. At the age of twenty-nine years, he was married to Regina Lugibihl, who was born in Allen county, and who was the daughter of David Lugibihl. She died in the fall of 1871, leaving two sons, William, whose history has been previously given, and Levi, the assistant cashier of the Peoples Bank, of Columbus Grove. Mr. Basinger was married, the second time, in June, 1872, to Barbara Bucher, who was born in Allen county, and was the daughter of Christian Bucher. Three children were born to this union, but only one is now living, Susie Basinger, who married Frank Lugibihl and lives with her father in Columbus Grove.

Christian Basinger is a large landowner in Putnam county. In 1893 he erected a handsome home on his farm situated on the Pandora road, which was destroyed by fire in March, 1905. Later he moved to Columbus Grove, in the fall of 1905, where he built a modern residence in 1906. In this residence he has resided since that time.

Christian Basinger began dealing in Percheron and French coach horses as early as 1885 and made at least four different trips to Europe to select his stock for importation. He became connected with the Peoples Bank, in

1892, and has been identified with that bank until the present time, for the most part as president. Christian Basinger is a member of St. John's Mennonite church. He is a valuable citizen of Putnam county and, in every respect, entitled to the esteem and confidence bestowed upon him during his declining years.

William Basinger spent his boyhood days on his father's farm in Riley township. When William was eight years old, he came with his father to Pleasant township, Putnam county, where the latter purchased a farm of eighty acres from John Marvin. Subsequently, William Basinger operated this farm with his father until he was of age or until about 1891. He then farmed under a partnership arrangement until his father gave up farming and moved to Columbus Grove. William Basinger then took an active interest in the farming of eighty acres, which was deeded to him by his father, and to which he subsequently added two forty-acre tracts, making a total of one hundred and sixty acres. Mr. Basinger also farms one hundred and sixty acres belonging to his father, lying across from and adjoining his own farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He has been a stock raiser of wide reputation. Mr. Basinger made a trip to Europe in 1890, in the interest of his business as a breeder of Percherons and French coach horses. In connection with his father, William Basinger has been one of the leading horse breeders in this section of Ohio. He is not extensively engaged in the breeding business at this time, but has turned his attention more to general farming and operating his splendid farm in Pleasant township. Notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Basinger is no longer actively engaged in the breeding business, he keeps a considerable number of splendid draft horses and is a splendid judge of their finest points. He has been an extensive exhibitor at fairs, but has not followed this for the past twelve years. He owns a fine home, large roomy barns and has made many improvements upon his land. All of the buildings are thoroughly modern and there are plenty of them for any and all purposes. In fact, Mr. Basinger has one of the finest country homes in Putnam county.

William Basinger was married on June 14, 1893, to Minnie E. Risser, the daughter of David and Margaret (Krohn) Risser. She was born April 27, 1873, in Riley township. Her parental history is contained elsewhere in this volume in the sketch of David Risser. To William and Minnie E. (Risser) Basinger, six children have been born, Leonard, on March 22, 1894, who is a student at the college of agriculture, University of Ohio; Marguerite Barbara, May 30, 1895, died on February 25, 1901; George Risser, December 7, 1899; Mildred Opal, October 26, 1901; Alice Evelyn, February 12,

1906, and Helen Beatrice, March 3, 1909. The last four children all live at home.

Mr. Basinger is not a member of any lodge. With the exception of school director, he has held no public offices. Mr. and Mrs. Basinger and family are members of the First Presbyterian church of Columbus Grove and are regular attendants at its services.

In the fall of 1914, Mr. Basinger was elected president of the Peoples Bank, at Columbus Grove, to succeed his father, who had served in that office for many years. William Basinger is a likeable man of splendid habits and sterling character. He is one of the leading citizens of Putnam county, kind and sociable and thoroughly domestic in his temperament. He takes great pride in his home, family and farm, and is a man widely known. He is naturally a power in his community, not only for progress generally, but his example as a scientific, successful farmer has had much to do with the growth and prosperity of Putnam county.

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#### GUY IRWIN.

Guy Irwin, a prosperous and enterprising young farmer of Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, is widely known throughout this county and is one of its honored citizens. His well-directed efforts in the practical affairs of life, his capable management of his business interests and his sound judgment have enabled him to add to the property he inherited from his father. His life demonstrates what may be accomplished by any man of energy and ambition who is not afraid to work and who has the perseverance to continue his labors in the face of disasters and discouragements. In all of the relations of life, Mr. Irwin has commanded the confidence and respect of those with whom he has been brought in contact. A biographical history of this locality would not be complete without a record of his career.

Guy Irwin was born on January 14, 1882, in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Benjamin Franklin and Lydia (Hayden) Irwin, the former of whom was born on November 30, 1821, in Fairfield county, Ohio, and died, May 22, 1902. The latter was the second wife of Benjamin F. Irwin, and was born on May 7, 1839, in Stark county, Ohio. She is still living on the old homestead place. Benjamin F. Irwin was the son of Josiah Kennedy and Catherine (Bartman) Irwin. Mrs. Lydia Irwin is the daughter of Nathaniel and Eliza (Bothers) Irwin.

Benjamin Franklin Irwin, the father of Guy, was first married to Sarah J. Lease, who was born on April 26, 1836, and died on June 28, 1861. Guy Irwin is a son by the second marriage which took place on March 28, 1864, and he is the youngest of nine children born to this marriage. The others were Martha Emma, March 9, 1865; Clement L., July 26, 1866; died on September 19, 1866; George Thurman, September 20, 1867, died on January 30, 1897; Benjamin F., Jr., August 25, 1869; Nathaniel K., January 20, 1871; James A., March 13, 1874; Charles P., December 9, 1876; Kemerer L., May 16, 1879.

Guy Irwin grew up on the homestead farm in Pleasant township and remained there until his marriage. He was educated in the public schools of Putnam county and, during the time he was attending school, performed the labors customary to this section of the country.

Mr. Irwin was married August 26, 1908, to Ruhama Anderson, the daughter of Evan Thomas and Loretta (Vandermark) Anderson. Evan Thomas Anderson was the son of Henry and Ann Anderson and was born on January 6, 1849, in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county. He married Loretta Elizabeth Vandermark, January 8, 1880, and to this union were born nine children, six sons and three daughters. All of these children are now living, with the exception of Alfred, who died, January 21, 1911. Evan Thomas Anderson, during his life, was a member of Maple Grove Christian church with which he united in May, 1911. He was a deacon in the church at the time of his death, January 1, 1915, when he was sixty-five years, seven months and twenty-five days old. At the time of Mr. Anderson's death, he left a wife, five sons, three daughters, sixteen grandchildren, one sister and many relatives and friends.

To Guy and Ruhama (Anderson) Irwin, two sons, Kenneth and Russell, have been born. They are living at home with their parents.

After Mr. Irwin's marriage, he and his wife moved to his present farm, in section 31, of Pleasant township, consisting of eighty acres, sixty acres of which were deeded to Mr. Irwin by his father and twenty acres of which he has added himself. Mr. Irwin follows general farming. In 1907, he built a modern barn, thirty-six by sixty-four feet, and the year following built a splendid residence in which he now lives.

The Irwin family are all members of the Maple Grove Christian church. Mr. Irwin and his wife's father united with this church in 1911. A Democrat in political views, Mr. Irwin is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows No. 464, at Columbus Grove. He is a quiet man, rather slow to make statements, yet progressive, open and above board. He takes a pride

in his farm and home and is an excellent farmer. His success has come to him largely as a consequence of his industry, his good management and his wise economy. He is a representative citizen of Pleasant township and entitled to representation in this volume as such.

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#### GEORGE B. SYFERT.

Conspicuous among the public-spirited men and representative citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, is the well-known gentleman whose name forms the caption of this article. He has made his influence felt for good in his community in Sugar Creek township, being a man of sterling worth, whose life has been closely interwoven with the history of the community in which he resides, and whose efforts have always been for the material advancement of the same, as well as for the social and moral welfare of his fellow men. And the well-regulated life he has led has thereby gained the respect and admiration of his fellow citizens, and entitles him to representation in a biographical work of the scope intended in the present volume.

George B. Syfert was born in Union township on February 8, 1864. He is a son of Abraham and Permelia (Clevenger) Syfert. Abraham Syfert was a native of Ohio, born in Fairfield county, in 1835, and died at the home of his son, George B. Syfert, in October, 1909. He was a son of Andrew and Rebecca (Guile) Syfert, both of whom were natives of Virginia, who came to Ohio in early days and settled in Fairfield county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. It was on the old homestead, which they established about nine miles southwest of Lancaster, that George's father grew to manhood. He was one of six children, three sons and three daughters, and remained at home until about twenty-one years of age, when he came to Putnam county, locating in Union township, and he was employed on a farm until his marriage. She to whom he was united, Permelia Clevenger, was born in Union township, in 1838, the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Rimer) Clevenger, who were the parents of twelve children, six sons and six daughters, all of whom grew to maturity. After his marriage, Mr. Syfert started in to farm on his own account in Sugar Creek township, locating on a farm belonging to an uncle of his wife. He finally settled on a farm of forty acres, located one and three-quarter miles south of Kalida, on the banks of Hog creek, where he engaged in farming for several years, and later, he moved to other locations in Union township. Again

he located just across the line, in Sugar Creek township, and his last residence was on a farm four miles south of Kalida. After giving up his home, he resided with his son, George B., at whose home his death occurred in October, 1909. His wife, Permelia had died on April 6, 1891, when they were living south of Kalida. Abraham and Permelia Syfert had thirteen children, eight of whom survive them: Eliza; Andrew; George B., the immediate subject of this sketch; Catherine; Eleva; Matilda; John C., deceased, and Louis.

George B. Syfert was reared on his paternal homestead, south of Kalida, and attended the district schools in that locality. He remained under the paternal roof until twenty-two years of age, and then moved three miles south of Kalida, locating on a farm of forty acres. This land was practically all covered by timber, only about eight acres being cleared, but Mr. Syfert boldly entered upon the task of subduing the land and creating a good farm. He first built a four-room house and a plank barn, the latter being later destroyed by fire, which was replaced with a log barn. Eventually, Mr. Syfert succeeded in getting his farm nearly all cleared, and after that, bought ten acres additional. After residing here about fourteen years, he sold out and bought sixty-eight and one-half acres of the old Guffy farm, to which he has since added eighty-two and one-half acres, making his total possessions now one hundred and fifty acres. He made some splendid and permanent improvements on his property, including a nine-room residence, a large and commodious barn and other necessary farm buildings. He carries on general farming operations, in addition to which he has for thirty-six years operated a thrashing machine, and in which work he has gained a wide reputation. He is up-to-date in his ideas, energetic in his methods, and numbered among the progressive and prominent farmers of his locality.

On November 11, 1886, Mr. Syfert was married to Margaret A. McClane, who was born in Sugar Creek township on April 18, 1863, the daughter of William F. and Elizabeth (Guffy) McClane. William F. McClane was born in Franklin county, Ohio, near Columbus, on October 24, 1828, the son of George and Margaret (Fleming) McClane. Mrs. Syfert's mother, Elizabeth Guffy, was the daughter of John Guffy and wife, and was born in Franklin county, on February 20, 1830, her death occurring on the old McClane homestead on March 31, 1912. She came to Sugar Creek township with her parents, when but a baby. Her father entered three hundred and twenty acres of land from the government. Here John Guffy built a log cabin on the place which is now occupied by George B. Syfert, and it was here that he created a home for his family in the midst of what was then a vast



wilderness. He passed through all the privations and hardships of the early pioneer period, and was numbered among those who accomplished much for the advancement of the locality. To John Guffy and wife were born eleven children, seven sons and four daughters, one of whom was Elizabeth, who, at the age of twenty-five years, became the wife of William F. McClane. After their marriage they lived at her home for about two years, and then moved to the old McClane homestead, where they have lived ever since. To William F. and Elizabeth (Guffy) McClane were born four children, George; John James; Margaret A., wife of the subject of this sketch, and Elnora Jane, all of whom are living.

To George B. and Margaret A. (McClane) Syfert have been born four children: Ellie, on September 1, 1887, is the wife of W. W. Woods, and they have three children, Beulah, Ewing and Tressa; Myrtle, April 30, 1890, became the wife of Fred Rimer, and they have two children, La Verne and Raymond; William, April 3, 1893, and Oliver, August 28, 1898.

Mr. Syfert is an ardent Democrat, and has served as township supervisor and is a member of the school of Union township. He and his wife are members of the Ottawa River Christian church, to the interests of which they are devoted. Straightforward and unassuming, genial and obliging, Mr. Syfert enjoys the good-will and respect of a wide circle of friends throughout his section of the county.

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#### JOSEPH LOSH.

The true measure of individual success is determined by what one has accomplished. An enumeration of those men who have succeeded in their chosen vocation in Putnam county and who, at the same time, are impressing their personalities upon the community where they live, men who are conferring honor upon the county in which they reside, would be incomplete were there a failure to mention specifically Joseph Losh, a well-known farmer of Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio. The splendid success which has come to him has been the direct result of his careful application to his vocation and his upright and honorable life has gained him an enviable reputation in the community. He has carried forward to successful completion whatever he has undertaken. The best business methods have been in strict conformity with the highest standards of commercial life. He has always taken an intelligent interest in the civic, educational and religious life of the community

and has earned the high regard of all his neighbors and of all the people of Pleasant township, among whom he is well known.

Joseph Losh was born on November 26, 1859, in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, on the farm where he now lives. He is the son of Abraham and Sarah Ann (Frost) Losh, the former of whom was born on July 17, 1817, in Licking county, was the son of Jacob and Mary Elizabeth (Schuler) Losh. Jacob Losh was a native of Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, and immigrated to Licking county, in 1817, where he died. His son, Abraham, came to Putnam county, in 1850, settling on a farm near Gilboa. He lived here for one year and then moved back to Licking county. In 1852 he returned to Pleasant township, where he purchased eighty acres of land, adding forty acres to this before his death. It was almost an unbroken forest. He built a log cabin here which still remains on Joseph Losh's farm. He farmed until his death, October 24, 1892, at which time he was seventy-six years old. He was a stanch member of the Lutheran church, but was not a member of the church in Putnam county. He exercised his right of franchise by voting the Democratic ticket. His wife, who was Sarah Ann Frost, before her marriage, was born on June 20, 1820, in Licking county, and died, May 31, 1880. She was married to Abraham Losh on March 20, 1841. She was the daughter of Joseph and Mary Ann (Schevalier) Frost, natives of Massachusetts, who came to Ohio in an early day, and who, without a doubt, are descendants of the Puritan pioneers.

To Abraham and Sarah Ann Losh, eight children were born, Mary A., Henry, Hannah, who married John Geib, Joseph, the subject of this sketch, and four who died in infancy.

Joseph Losh grew to manhood on the farm where he now lives. He received his education in the township schools and in the Fostoria Academy, at Fostoria, Ohio. Subsequently, he attended the theological school at Stanfordville, New York, and remained in college until time for his ordination, but he was never ordained. He was a local preacher in the United Brethren church and a student preacher in Putnam county for some time. In 1888 he came back to the farm.

Joseph Losh was married on January 1, 1890, to Emma Bunte, the daughter of Jacob and Josephine (Hedrick) Bunte. Jacob Bunte was a native of Prussia, as was also his wife. They were married in Germany and came to America with a family of five children, settling first at Cincinnati, where they remained for a short time. He was a practicing physician and worked during the cholera epidemic of 1845. He taught a school in Cincinnati, and was organist in the Catholic church there. He came to Delphos,

Ohio, in 1846 and taught school during the pioneer days, when wild hogs ran at large. He was the first teacher in the parochial schools at that place. From Delphos, he moved back to Cincinnati, thence to Toledo, from there to Albany, New York, and from Albany to Putnam county, Ohio. He practiced medicine at Delphos and was also organist in the Catholic church there. During a part of his life, he was engaged in the manufacture of pianos. Jacob Bunte settled in Putnam county, when Mrs. Losh was five years old. After acquiring a farm of eighty acres, he farmed until his death, at the age of seventy-eight. His brother was one of the early settlers of Glandorf and, at one time, was a large landholder in and about Glandorf. He was known as Doctor Bunte. He came to Glandorf with Professor Horstman, the founder of Glandorf, Putnam county.

Jacob Bunte and wife were the parents of twelve children, Matilda, Daniel, Amelia, Fredericka, John, Frederick, Joseph, Sophia, Josephine, Adeline, Anna and Emma. Joseph, Josephine, Adeline and Mrs. Losh are the only ones now living. Mrs. Jacob Bunte was born on October 17, 1816, and died at the age of eighty-two. Her daughter, Mrs. Losh was born at Albany, New York, on May 17, 1881.

To Joseph and Emma (Bunte) Losh, eight children have been born, Abraham J., of Columbus Grove, who married Mary Kramer and has one son, Joseph, who operates the Columbus Grove laundry; Lewis, who married Anna Wort and helps his father on the home farm; Mabel, who married Lawrence Burkhart, a clerk in the War Department, at Washington, D. C.; Sarah, married Joseph Kastner, lives in Dayton, Ohio; Sol H., and Stella, all at home; Leona died in infancy and Francis is living.

Joseph Losh follows general farming and has made extensive improvements on his farm. He is enterprising and has been successful in everything that he has undertaken.

Republican in politics, Mr. Losh is independent in state and national affairs. He is now a member of the Presbyterian church at Columbus Grove. At one time he was a stanch Catholic and he organized the movement to secure the first Catholic church at Columbus Grove; also secured the services of the noted missionary, Father Charles Martus, as a missionary who held two missions for non-Catholics in Columbus Grove, which culminated in the establishment of the present church. Mrs. Losh and children belong to the Catholic church at Columbus Grove. Mr. Losh is widely acquainted in Putnam county. He has a splendid home and a fertile farm and is highly respected by his neighbors and honored by all with whom he has come into contact, and has one of the most diversified libraries in the county.

## BERNARD JOSEPH MEYER.

Germany is among those nations that have contributed a large quota of their population to that of the United States. No country has furnished better citizens. Hundreds of thousands of men and women, with the best blood of that country coursing through their veins, have come to our shores, and have become the most substantial citizens of the various localities in which they settled. Forunate, indeed, is the community which has German descendants numbered among its citizens, for wherever they are found they are always numbered among its most substantial citizens. The habits of thrift and frugality which they inherit from their ancestors make them valuable residents to the community at large. No one has ever heard of a German dying in the poorhouse. The examples set by the thrifty German citizens have been very beneficial, not only to our native Americans, but to the citizens of all other countries as well. Ohio has been fortunate in attracting to her fertile soil many thousands of good Germans, and among the prominent families of Putnam county of German descent is the Meyer family. One of the representative citizens of Putnam county, who is a scion of a thrifty German family, is Bernard Joseph Meyer.

Bernard J. Meyer was born on June 12, 1863, at Glandorf, Putnam county, the son of Gerhard and Anna (Moening) Meyer, whose life histories are found elsewhere in this volume. These histories give the Meyers family history.

Growing up on a farm near Glandorf, Bernard J. Meyer was married in 1886 to Mary Elizabeth Ellerbrock, who was born in Glandorf and who is the daughter of John Ferdinand and Theresa (Klemen) Ellerbrock. The Ellerbrock family history is also found elsewhere in this volume.

In the spring of 1886 Mr. Meyer purchased a farm in the southeastern part of Liberty township, and he has lived upon this farm since his marriage. He began with eighty acres that were largely covered with swamps, and, aside from being mostly cleared of timber, it was almost totally unimproved. Mr. Meyer has erected an excellent house, a large substantial barn with a tile roof and a number of other substantial outbuildings. He now owns one hundred and fifty-nine acres of fertile land, which produces abundant harvests. Bernard J. Meyer is a farmer and thresherman and is well known in Liberty township as an enterprising citizen and a successful business man.

To Bernard J. and Mary Elizabeth (Ellerbrock) Meyer have been born four children: John Ferdinand, Catherine Wilhelmina, Catherine Agnes and

Joseph Henry. John Ferdinand married Anna Susanna Gores, the daughter of George Gores, and lives on his father's farm. They have one daughter, Mary Elizabeth. Catherine Wilhelmina is the wife of George Steffen and lives east of Leipsic. They have one daughter, Eulalia Marie. Catherine Agnes and Joseph Henry are unmarried and live at home.

The Meyer family have always been members of the Catholic church and contribute liberally to the support of this faith. Mr. Meyer is a representative citizen and a successful farmer. He is interested in all public movements and does not hesitate to devote his time and money to worthy public enterprises.

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### JOHN B. NORMAN.

Among the representative citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, is John B. Norman, a well-known farmer of Pleasant township. Mr. Norman has impressed his personality upon the community where he lives and is honored and respected by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. Moreover, Mr. Norman has made a creditable success of his life's vocation and he, likewise, takes an active interest in public questions, adding to the wisdom of the community by his counsels and helpfulness. On both sides of his family, he is descended from good old English stock, men and women who left their native land to find homes in the new country. By marriage, Mr. Norman is identified with the Beam family, one of the best-known and most highly respected in Putnam county.

John B. Norman was born on February 17, 1859, in England and is the son of Samuel and Sarah (Beridge) Norman, the former of whom was born at Uppingham, Rutland, England, on August 7, 1833, and the latter of whom was born at the same place.

Samuel Norman was the son of Samuel, Sr., and Deborah (Pickering) Norman. Samuel Norman, Jr., left England in 1860 and came to Huron county, Ohio, where he worked by the month for one man during a period of seven years. He lived in Huron county, altogether, for fourteen years and then came to Putnam county, in 1874, settling in Union township, on a farm of forty acres. He operated this farm for thirty years and then sold it and removed to Pleasant township, Putnam county, where he bought six and one-half acres and farmed it until his retirement a few years ago. He now lives near his son, John B. Samuel Norman, Jr., was married in England, December 2, 1856, and was the father of two children in that country, Mrs.

Elizabeth Jane Buckingham, born in 1857; and John B. Samuel Norman, Jr., is a Republican and a member of the church of Latter-Day Saints. When he came to America, it took him twenty-two days on a sailing vessel. He landed in New York on Thanksgiving day and came overland to Huron county. Samuel Norman, Sr., came from England to America ahead of his son, in 1856, and settled in Huron county, where he farmed twenty acres. He came to Putnam county in 1863 and settled in Union township, farming twenty acres there until his death, January 16, 1885, at the age of eighty-two. His wife, who was Deborah Pickering before her marriage, was a native of England also. She died in November, 1890, aged ninety-two years. She was the mother of five children, Samuel, Jr., Ann, Jane, John and Eliza, all of whom are deceased except Samuel, Jr. Mrs. Sarah Norman, who, before her marriage, was Sarah Beridge, was the daughter of Michael and Alice (Wiles) Beridge, both of whom were natives of England, the former of Northamptonshire and the latter of Keton, Rutland. They never came to America. Mrs. Sarah Norman is still living.

John B. Norman spent his boyhood days in Huron county, Ohio, and came to Putnam county when fourteen years of age with his father, living with him until he was married. He first operated a one-hundred-acre farm in Union township. He began with forty acres which he farmed for about six years and then purchased the John Buckingham farm of forty acres, after which, he bought twenty acres from his grandfather, but, on March 1, 1901, he came to Pleasant township and located on his present farm of eighty-seven and one-half acres. He follows general farming and is still active in this vocation.

Mr. Norman was married on November 27, 1884, to Lydian Ann Beam, the daughter of Amos and Mary (Burkhart) Beam, the former of whom was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on June 27, 1823. Amos Beam was the son of Jacob and Rosa (Carnes) Beam. Jacob Beam was born on April 13, 1796, and his father was Peter Beam, who was born on December 5, 1732. The complete family history of the Beams is contained elsewhere in this volume. Amos Beam died, January 29, 1900, at the age of seventy-six.

To John B. and Lydian Ann (Beam) Norman, six children have been born, Nellie, who married Harmon Allen, a grocer, of Lima, Ohio, and has three children, Alice L., Norman C. and Ruth Olive; Rosa, who married Pearl Bowers, of Lima, Ohio, who is an engineer on the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad; Sarah, who married Ray Sakemiller, a farmer of Sugar Creek township; Zelma, who married Charles Stover, of Ottawa, and has one son, Norman; Mary and Ruth, both of whom are at home.

John B. Norman is a quiet, unassuming man with a clean record. He is a good, substantial farmer, and in his community is well liked. His habits are thoroughly domestic and he is a kind and loving father, as well as a good provider. Throughout his life he has been a strong and ardent advocate of sound principles in farming and follows these principles himself. He owns a splendid home and a valuable, well-located farm. Fraternally, Mr. Norman is a member of Columbus Grove Lodge, No. 376, Knights of Pythias. He has always considered himself a staunch Republican, but of late years has been more or less independent in his voting.

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#### HENRY KAUFMANN.

That tiller of the soil who knows the significance of the opportunities presented to him, and who takes pride in grasping those opportunities and developing them to the credit of himself and the commonwealth, is indeed fortunate. Such a man is Henry Kaufman and he is that type of man of whom a community might justly be proud.

Henry Kaumann's father was born in March, 1823, in Westphalia, Prussia, and came to America in 1860, first locating at Cleveland. Henry was born in the same town as was his father, on November 25, 1850, his parents being John and Louisa (Lentz) Kaufmann, who were also the parents of Louis and William, both deceased; Mrs. Philomena Lammers, of Liberty township, Putnam county; Frederick, who is deceased; a child who died at the age of four, and Joseph, deceased.

After locating in Cleveland, John Kaufmann worked as a miller, which trade he learned in Prussia and had been following there some time before coming to America. The new land was strange and a hardship was worked on him because of his inability to speak the new tongue. After a short stay at Cleveland, he went on to Tiffin, where he stayed six months and then came to Glandorf, Putnam county, where he rented a grist-mill which he operated for three years. Then he bought the farm where Henry now lives, and which was then uncleared. Soon after this he purchased the Emlinger grist-mill, of Ottawa, which he ran for three years and then sold out when he returned to his farm, where he died. John Kaufmann was a Democrat, but not a politician. He was an active member of the Holy Family Catholic church of New Cleveland, Putnam county, and was well known and highly respected as a loyal neighbor and liberal business man. His wife, also a native of Prussia, was born in 1818, and died on the homestead in March, 1905, aged

eighty-seven years. She was a loving wife, a devoted mother, and took proper pride in her home and its affairs.

The entire life of Henry Kauffmann has been lived on the home farm, which he inherited at his father's death. This farm formerly had a log house and barn, but modern buildings have been since erected by Mr. Kaufmann, who also owns three eighty-acre tracts in Ottawa township and one forty-acre tract in Pleasant township, comprising two hundred and eighty acres in all. The farm in Pleasant township is being farmed by his sons. The land is given over to general farming, live stock and grain being the principal products.

The marriage of Mr. Kaufmann and Theresa Niese took place on June 12, 1877, the wife being the daughter of John Henry Niese and Anna Catharine (Schierloh) Niese. To Mr. and Mrs. Kaufmann the following children were born: Mary married John Lammers and of their nine children five are living, namely: Loretta, Philip, Veronica, Stella and Frederick; Edward, who married Veronica Schroeder, is the father of four children, of whom Arthur, Edwin and Leonard are living; William died in infancy; Joseph married Agnes Kuhlmann and tills a farm in Ottawa township; Frederick, who married Emma Schroeder, farms in Pleasant township and has one child, Albert; Adolph and Stella live at home.

Mrs. Kaufmann's father, John Niese, came from Munster, Prussia, to Putnam county, about 1840, where he settled on land near Glandorf, where he cleared and improved fifty acres. He was born in 1809, and died in 1884, aged seventy-five years. His wife was born in Glandorf, Germany, about 1822, and died on August 5, 1905. The two were hard-working people and were successful in life. Their deaths on the homestead were mourned by the many to whom they had endeared themselves. They were the parents of thirteen children, as follow: William died in 1910; Rosa died in infancy; Mary died at the age of twenty-one; Henry; Mrs. Elizabeth Rosenthal, of Kalida; Barney and John; Mrs. Catherine Inkrot, of Liberty township, and Frank, are twins; Laura died in infancy; Theresa, the wife of the subject of this sketch; Bernadina lives in Tiffin, and Anna, deceased.

Jovial and good-natured, Mr. Kaufmann is accordingly liked by his neighbors. He belongs to no fraternal orders; his political preferences are with the Democratic party; in religion a member of the Holy Family Catholic church at New Cleveland, as are his family, with the exception of two sons, Edward and Frederick, who belong to the same denomination at Ottawa. Mr. Kaufmann's reputation as a farmer and a good father gives him a title clear to stand in the company of the select of his county. Mr. Kaufmann is



practically retired from farming, but is still active in body and mind. His residence is a good brick house, one of the best in the community. Mrs. Kaufmann is a kind woman, of motherly disposition and has contributed much to her husband's success. Mr. Kaufmann is a member of the building committee to supervise the erection of the new Catholic church at New Cleveland and is one of the most active members of this committee. The new church is to cost between thirty thousand and forty thousand dollars, and the task of the building committee is a very important one.

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### REV EDWARD LAYPORT, D. D.

Rev. Edward Layport, D. D., was born on a farm near Laceyville, Harrison county, Ohio, on January 24, 1850.

His paternal ancestors were of French Huguenot stock, the name originally being La Porte, but was anglicized as a rebuke to French infidelity and religious intolerance. They emigrated from Alsace-Lorraine to the state of Maryland prior to the Declaration of Independence, and came to Ohio in 1805, securing an entry of land from the government by letters patent. George Layport, the great-grandfather, and five of his sons were engaged in the early Indian wars. One of the sons, Thomas, was killed by Indians. Having been sent home to see how his mother fared, the Indians surprised them, burning the cabin and killed Thomas, while his mother and her younger child escaped in the forest.

The maternal ancestry of Rev. Edward Layport were Scotch-Irish from County Antrim, Ireland. His mother's name was Loughridge, and religiously they were Covenanters.

Reverend Layport was the eldest son of William and Jane Layport. He was educated in a country school, studied science in Scio College and the classics in Franklin College, graduating, July 4, 1876. He studied theology at Lane Seminary, Cincinnati, graduating on May 8, 1879. He was ordained to the Gospel ministry on June 3, 1879 and installed pastor over the Bluffton and Rockport Presbyterian churches, in Lima Presbytery.

On October 16, 1879, Rev. Edward Layport was united in marriage to Lillie May Tripp, of Carrollton. One daughter, Mrs. F. M. Belden, Jr., of Akron, Ohio, was born to this marriage.

Reverend Layport held pastorates in Loudonville and Nashville. He was pastor at Columbus Grove from 1884 to 1889; of the First Presbyterian church, of Akron, for nine years, from 1889 to 1898; at Loveland, from 1898

to 1903 and at Van Buren, from 1903 to 1906. In June, 1903, Franklin College conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

In October, 1906, owing to impaired health, Reverend Layport moved on a farm near Columbus Grove, where he has since resided. For three years he acted as missionary superintendent of Lima Presbytery. He then supplied the Welsh Presbyterian church of Sugar Creek and, later, has had charge of the Leipsic Presbyterian church.

In the second year of his pastorate at Akron, Reverend Layport's wife died on May 10, 1891. On August 21, 1895, he married Laura Adella Trumbo, of Rockport, a daughter of Enoch and Martha Trumbo. One son, Edward Trumbo, was born to them, on December 10, 1898. He is now a student in the Columbus Grove high school.

Mrs. Laura (Trumbo) Layport is an alumna of Leland Stanford, Jr., University at Palo Alto, California, and is prominent in missionary and temperance work. She is president of the Putnam County Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and has seen the number of unions double during her administration. She is also an ardent advocate of woman's suffrage.

Reverend Layport, politically, is no partisan, voting for the man instead of the party. He believes fully in our public school system and also in free speech and a free press. He takes an active interest in farm life, making a specialty of pure bred Rhode Island Red chickens. The Ridgeway poultry farm, of which he is owner and manager, has a wide reputation.

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### JOHN HENRY UTENDORF.

Being numbered among the life-long residents of the locality in which he lives and having had a fair start and a fixed determination to succeed, John Henry Utendorf is worthy of the praise and admiration of his fellow men, because of his careful management, continued industry and set purpose and the fact that he has acquired a fair competence of this world's goods. His career has been one of honorable methods in all his dealings with those with whom he came in contact, and a history of the people of Putnam county, who are worthy of mention in a work of this nature, would be incomplete without his record.

John Henry Utendorf was born in Ottawa township, this county, on July 7, 1876, and is the son of Joseph and Catherine (Shulte) Utendorf, whose life history appears elsewhere in this work under the name of Benjamin R. Utendorf.



MR. AND MRS. JOHN H. TENDORE.



Remaining under the parental roof and attending the township schools during his early days John Henry Utendorf assisted his father until about the time of his marriage, on November 25, 1903, to Catherine Hueve, a daughter of Joseph Bernard and Regina Gertrude (Klaform) Hueve. Her father was a native of Hanover, Germany, where he was born in 1822, and left that country, in his seventeenth year, accompanied by his parents, who came to the United States and settled on a farm some distance west of the town of Glandorf, Putnam county. This farm was probably land entered from the government and his father farmed it for some time. The son, Joseph, left his parents when he arrived at the age of twenty-eight and went to work as an employee of the Miami & Erie Canal Company, which was constructing a canal through this region at that time, and, at which he continued to work for some time. After his marriage, in the year 1852, he returned to his father's home and remained with him for three years, then struck out again for himself and purchased eighty acres of land in Pleasant township, and for which he paid six dollars per acre. It was all timbered with virgin trees and here it was that he began his career. His first meal, in this section, was eaten on an old tree stump and after cutting the required amount of timber he erected a log house for himself and wife, also a log barn, and, eventually, cleared the entire eighty acres. It was here that he suffered the untold hardships of pioneer days and many a time he was known to be at work on this place without boots or mittens to protect him from the elements of the weather. At later dates he added two other tracts, the first consisted of forty acres and another of forty-six, both in Pleasant township, and heavily timbered. It was on this place that he died, May 16, 1898, in the seventy-fourth year of his age, after living a most useful christian life. His wife and the mother of our subject's wife, was also a native of Germany, where she was born on April 12, 1834, and died in this country, November 3, 1893. She came to this country with her parents when she was but two years of age. Their first experience after arriving in this new land was sleeping in the timber the first night her parents settled on a place near the town of Glandorf. The mother died on this homestead farm, in Pleasant township, in the fifty-ninth year of her age. To their union were born thirteen children, as follow: Joseph, deceased in infancy; Mary (Mrs. Kleman), of Ottawa township; William; Anne (Mrs. Koenig), of Paulding county; Theresia (Mrs. Moening), of Ottawa; Magdaline (Mrs. Brinkman), of the state of Texas; Elizabeth and Bernadina, who died in infancy; Theodore, who lives on the old homestead in Pleasant township; Philomena Cath-

erine; Catherine Elizabeth, subject's wife; John, of Pleasant township, and Amelia, who died at the age of nineteen years.

After John H. Utendorf's marriage, and in the twenty-seventh year of his age, he removed to Pleasant township, where he started farming on his present place, which consists of one hundred and sixty acres. This land was cleared with the exception of about thirty-five acres still in timber. After doing considerable ditching and draining, fencing and otherwise getting things in shape, Mr. Utendorf has gotten this farm into first-class condition for general farming and he is able to produce the maximum results on a place of this size which is used for growing crops. His concentrated efforts and careful management show everywhere. The buildings have all been built new or remodeled and his residence is an imposing structure, modern in every respect. All in all, he has made a success in agricultural pursuits. To their union have been born five children as follow: Frances, Edward, Mary, John and Anna, all of whom live at home.

Mr. Utendorf is a Democrat, but does not take an active interest in politics. Fraternally, he is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio and the Knights of Columbus, both of which orders have lodges in the town of Ottawa, where he belongs. The entire family are members of the Catholic church at Ottawa, to which they contribute according to their means. Mr. Utendorf has the reputation of being a man of genial and kindly disposition, charitable, and always ready to lend a helping hand to the less fortunate who are plodding along life's highway. Personally, Mr. Utendorf is a man of unassuming ways and on account of his sterling qualities, honorable methods, and keen interest in all community affairs, is held in the highest esteem by all who know him.

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### WILLIAM J. WISCHMEYER.

William J. Wischmeyer, of Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, is one of the well-known farmers of Ottawa township and is of an old family. He owns a comfortable home and is possessed of the satisfaction of having reared a family of children to honorable and useful lives.

On May 14, 1860, Mr. Wischmeyer himself was born at New Cleveland, Putnam county, and is the son of Ferdinand Henry and Mary (Schmenk) Wischmeyer, the former of whom was a native of the Province of Hanover, Germany, born on June 24, 1836. A sister, Mary, who had married William Gulker, having come to this country, Ferdinand Henry Wischmeyer arrived

at Glandorf, Putnam county, where he was twelve years of age, and here as a lad he did any kind of work he was able to find. Educated at Cleveland for the priesthood in the Catholic church, but subsequently abandoning his ambition for the church, he taught school for several years in Greensburg township. Having been able to obtain a good education, he was considered one of the foremost teachers of his time. His wife, Mary Schmenk, to whom he was married in 1858, although born at Glandorf, Putnam county, was the daughter of Herman and Anna Schmenk, the former of whom came from Holland to America about 1840, first settling near New Cleveland, in Putnam county, and later moving to Avilla, Indiana, where he and his wife lived the remainder of their lives. They were not accompanied to Indiana by their daughter Mary, who remained at New Cleveland after the removal of her parents. After giving birth to four children, William J., the subject of this sketch, Mary, John and Ferdinand, Mrs. Mary (Schmenk) Wischmeyer died in November, 1865, on the farm near New Cleveland where she and her husband had settled after their marriage. Mr. Wischmeyer was married a second time, to Catherine Ballman, about three years after the death of his first wife, and had six children by the second marriage, as follow: Theodore, Henry, Joseph, Benjamin, Frank (deceased) and Bernard. The father of these children is now deceased, having died at New Cleveland, where his wife still survives him.

Born, educated and reared at New Cleveland, Putnam county, William J. Wischmeyer worked on his father's farm, in Ottawa township, where his brother now lives, and in 1887 was married, when he removed to Glandorf, where he remained for three years and then removed to Ottawa and lived there for three years. Mr. Wischmeyer bought a farm of sixty-four acres in Ottawa township, which land he has cleared, drained and improved generally. It is his present home and here he has surrounded himself with all the comforts of farm life.

Mr. Wischmeyer's wife, before her marriage, was Mary Hesseling, daughter of Henry and Anna (Hemma) Hesseling, and was born near Ft. Jennings, Putnam county, where her parents had settled on a farm. Subsequently, they moved to Delphos, in Allen county, where Mrs. Wischmeyer was educated, and where she grew up with the other children, Frederick, Herman, Charles, John, Joseph (deceased), William, Kate and Bernadina. The parents are both deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Wischmeyer four children have been born, one of whom, an infant, is deceased. The living children are Louis Henry, John Edward and Anna Philomena.

Mr. and Mrs. Wischmeyer and family belong to Sts. Peter and Paul's

Catholic church at Ottawa. Mr. Wischmeyer is a Democrat. He is not only a capable farmer, but an enterprising citizen, and a man of pleasant and agreeable personality. He is strongly devoted to his family and to the immediate interests of the home. These he has guarded and protected with a zeal of a kind husband and loving father. Mr. Wischmeyer is well and favorably known in this community.

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### JOSEPH ZINK.

The spirit of a truly good man is almost as wonderful as his work. This spirit usually is characterized by disinterestedness, modesty and absolute fairness, qualities not only good in themselves, but which must remain as a proof of the importance of character in whatever labors one's hands find to do, in whatever work one is engaged to perform. Among the men who have exerted a large personal influence in the affairs of Putnam county and who have occupied positions of public trust and responsibility, few are better known than former Sheriff Joseph Zink. No history of Putnam county can be complete without mention of Joseph Zink and his services to the county, and it is with pleasure the biographer asks the reader's attention to the following brief sketch of his career in this county.

Joseph Zink is a native of Putnam county, having been born in the year 1859 on a farm in Palmer township, the son of William and Elizabeth Zink, both natives of Germany, who were married in Baden before coming to this country in 1849. For a time after their arrival in America, the Zinks lived in Columbus, William Zink being a skilled workman in the building trades, and he was engaged for some time on the construction of the Ohio state capitol. During this time he was offered eighty acres of land, a strip lying in what is now the heart of the city of Columbus, for eight hundred dollars, but when he was told he could get twice as much land in Putnam county for the same money, he declined the offer and proceeded to Putnam county, where, in 1850, he bought one hundred and sixty acres in Palmer township for four hundred dollars. He found much of this land practically worthless for farming purposes at that time, it being an apparently irreclaimable swamp, there being at that time no facilities at hand for drainage. He gave eighty acres of this land to his brother as an inducement for the latter to come and stay in the neighborhood with him and help him to reclaim his farm. After six months of struggle, with the apparently insuperable obstacles which lay in



the way of successful farming there, the brother departed and never came back to Putnam county, apparently having given the whole thing over as a bad job. The swampy condition of the land at that time was productive of much illness and the people thereabout constantly were subjected to fevers and ague, which made life miserable for many. It is interesting to note that the land which at that time was so comparatively worthless now is included among the best lands of the county, farms thereabout being well worth one hundred and fifty dollars an acre.

William Zink was not discouraged, however, by the difficulties which confronted him and set bravely to work to reclaim his place. For some time his chief income from the place was derived from the sale of hoop-poles, which he hauled to Ottawa, where he found a ready market. Unhappily, this plucky pioneer was not destined to see his farm brought to the state of productivity for which he had hoped or to see his family reared as he had hoped to rear them, for not long after he had settled there, William Zink became the victim of one of the cruelest crimes that ever occurred in Putnam county, and which occurred just after the close of the Civil War. One day, when going to Lima to make a payment on his farm, William Zink was waylaid at a point between Ottawa and Glandorf, and there was murdered and robbed. The murderer was captured and was charged with the deed in the first degree, but before the grand jury convened he broke jail at Kalida and made good his escape, and was never captured, nor seen or heard of in that section afterward. To add to the cruelty of this tragic situation, Mrs. Zink, the widow of the murdered man, died the next year, leaving seven children to the tender mercies of the world. The neighbors, however, were helpful and generous and the orphans quickly were placed in good homes in the neighborhood, several families responding gladly to this humane call.

In the distribution of these orphans it fell to the happy lot of Joseph Zink to be taken into the family of Mr. and Mrs. William Kohls, a generous young couple, who at that time had but one child of their own, and who lived south of Ottawa. In the home of the Kohls young Joseph received as careful rearing as though he were of the family born and grew up into strong, vigorous young manhood, tall, broad-shouldered and hardy. Here he remained until he was eighteen years of age, after which for one year he "worked out" in the neighborhood as a farm hand and then went to the state of Missouri, where he remained for a year, at the end of which time he returned to Putnam county and went to work on the farm of Herman Kohls, near Ft. Jennings, receiving for this service one hundred and fifty dollars for the year. While thus engaged, in the year 1882, Joseph Zink was united in marriage to Miss

Mary Facker, who was born on a farm near Ft. Jennings, the daughter of Caspar and Elizabeth (Ostendorf) Facker, the former of whom was a native of Hanover and the latter a native of Osnabruck, Germany.

Caspar Facker and Elizabeth Ostendorf came to America in their youth, both locating in Ohio. They were married in Dayton, Ohio, about the year 1845, and soon afterward came to Putnam county, settling in the neighborhood of Ft. Jennings, buying a farm one and one-half miles from the village, where they spent the rest of their lives and where their son, Caspar Facker, Jr., now lives. Mrs. Zink lived with her parents until she was sixteen years of age, at which time she began to support herself by taking service in the homes of others in the neighborhood, and was thus engaged until her marriage with Mr. Zink.

Following his marriage, Joseph Zink started for himself by renting a farm near Ft. Jennings and was thus employed for five years, at the end of which time he bought a farm in the northeast corner of Greensburg township, Putnam county, where he lived until 1906, and where his son now lives. Though this farm is now well improved and productive, at the time Mr. Zink took it over it was a densely wooded swamp and there were little opportunities in those days for adequate soil drainage. In fact, the place was so swampy that it was said Mr. Zink could row a boat around his house. At the time he took the place, however, there was no house on it and it fell to him to provide a home for his bride. The log cabin which he quickly built was at first "daubed" with mud, but later these chinks were filled with mortar. Mr. Zink laughingly says that in the winters, when he was not otherwise engaged about the place, he always could find occupation shoveling the snow out of the attic, whither it had drifted in under the clapboard roof. After about eight years of incessant toil, this farm was drained, cleared and brought to a profitable state of cultivation, and is now included among the excellent farms of the county, with its good house, barns and other improvements. During his residence in Greensburg township, Mr. Zink served for seven years as township trustee and did much for the development of that section of the county.

While he was engaged in subduing the forest and the swamp, however, Mr. Zink found time to cultivate the wide acquaintance of his neighbors and became one of the best known men in that part of the county. Indeed, his acquaintance was not limited to his own neighborhood, but extended to all parts of the county, so much so that when, in 1905, Mr. Zink received the nomination for sheriff on the Democratic ticket, he was so well known throughout the county and so deservedly popular that his election was well nigh assured from the beginning of the race. He took office at Ottawa, in

1906, and gave such general satisfaction in administering the affairs of the sheriff's office that he was renominated and re-elected for another two-year term, at the end of which term, by reason of an amendment to the law relating to tenure, an extra year was added to his term, making five years in all in which he held this office, and it is hardly necessary to say that he proved to be one of the most popular sheriffs the county ever had. Following the expiration of his term of office, Mr. Zink remained in the sheriff's office for two years, serving as deputy under Sheriff Miller, who had been a deputy during the latter's tenure. At the close of this deputyship, Mr. Zink retired from public life with the proud satisfaction of well and truly having served the public and having discharged all the duties devolving upon him with fairness and fidelity.

After leaving office, Mr. Zink moved to a farm of one hundred and five acres of well improved land, which he shortly before had bought, about two miles north of Ottawa, and here he is living happily and comfortably, enjoying the confidence, respect and esteem of the whole community.

To Joseph and Mary (Facker) Zink were born five children: William, who married Della Perkey and who now lives on the old home farm in Greensburg township, where Mr. and Mrs. Zink spent the happy days of their early struggles; Laura, who married Arthur Conn and lives at Ottawa, they having three children, Marie, Ellsworth and Helen; Elizabeth, the wife of Grover Phillips, lives at Detroit, Michigan, and has two children, Virginia and William; Edward, unmarried, lives at home, and Cora graduated from the high school at Ottawa.

The Zinks are all members of the Catholic church at Ottawa, and are active in the various beneficences of the parish, at the same time taking their share in all the good works of the community, being very properly regarded as among the leaders in their large circle of friends and acquaintances.

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### BENJAMIN FRANKLIN IRWIN.

Among the strong and influential citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, the record of whose lives have become an essential part of the history of this section, Benjamin Franklin Irwin occupies a prominent place. For many years he has exerted a beneficial influence in the locality where he resides. His chief characteristics are keenness of perception, a tireless energy, honesty of purpose and motive and every-day common sense, which have enabled him, not only to advance his own interests, but also largely to contribute to the

moral and the material advancement of the community where he lives, and especially to the moral advancement of Pleasant township.

Benjamin Franklin Irwin, the subject of this sketch, was born on August 26, 1869, in Pleasant township in Putnam county. He is the son of Benjamin Franklin, Sr., and Lydia (Hayden) Irwin, the latter of whom was Mr. Irwin's second wife.

Benjamin Franklin Irwin, Jr., was never married. He spent his boyhood days on his father's farm, and still resides with his mother on the homestead in Pleasant township. Mr. Irwin owns one hundred and sixteen acres of land and follows general farming. He makes a specialty of raising live stock, and large quantities of grain. All the buildings on the farm where Mr. Irwin lives were erected by his late father, with the exception, perhaps, of the corn-crib and granary, which were built by the son in 1905.

Benjamin Franklin Irwin, Jr., is the present efficient township trustee of Pleasant township, having assumed that office in 1912. He was elected at that time to a term of two years. In politics, Mr. Irwin is a Democrat. He was always been prominent, locally, in the councils of the Democratic party. While he is not a member of any church, he is a man of strong religious convictions, and is a power for good in the community where he lives. Mr. Irwin is a member of No. 464, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Columbus Grove and is a quiet, unassuming man, and well known in Putnam county. He is considered a very capable farmer and bears a high reputation in this community for his honesty of purpose and sterling character. He is a booster of all progressive movements and, in every respect, a worthy citizen.

Benjamin Franklin Irwin, Sr., was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on November 30, 1821, and died, May 22, 1902. His first wife was Sarah J. Lease, who was born on April 26, 1836, and who died on June 28, 1861. By this first marriage there were four children, as follow: Harmon L., born on June 16, 1855; Margaret A., September 5, 1857; Eva, August 1, 1859; and Sarah J., born June 28, 1861.

After the death of Mrs. Sarah J. (Lease) Irwin, Mr. Irwin was married again on March 28, 1864, to Lydia J. Hayden, who was born on May 7, 1839, in Stark county. By this second union nine children were born, Martha Emma on March 9, 1865; Clement L., July 26, 1866, died on September 19, 1866; George Thurman, September 20, 1867, died on January 30, 1897; Benjamin F., the subject of this sketch, as heretofore stated, August 25, 1869; Nathaniel K., January 20, 1871; James A., March 13, 1874; Charles P., December 9, 1876; Kemerer L., May 16, 1879, and Guy, January 14, 1882.

When Benjamin F. Irwin settled in Putnam county, it was a dense forest. There was scarcely a stick of timber missing and but a few residents in the

neighborhood where Mr. Irwin settled, and it was owing to his indefatigable courage and unswerving purpose, together with hard work that this dense forest was cleared for the plow. Benjamin F. Irwin, Sr., was a Democrat. All in all he was a hard-working farmer and suffered all the privations of pioneer life. The father of Benjamin F. Irwin, Sr., was Josiah Kennedy Irwin, who married Catherine Bartman. Benjamin F. Irwin's second wife was the daughter of Nathaniel and Eliza (Bothers) Hayden.

All of the members of the Irwin family are well known throughout Putnam county, and the fact that the progenitors of this family have been pioneers in the history of this county for several generations, they have been highly respected citizens and have added much to the material prosperity of this county. Benjamin Franklin Irwin, Jr., is no exception to this rule. He is a worthy citizen of Pleasant township, and from any standpoint deserves the confidence and esteem bestowed upon him by the people of this county.

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#### HENRY KOTTENBROCK.

All progress is continuous, one generation merely gathering the ripe fruits of the labors of its predecessors, each succeeding generation building on the firm foundation laid by others. In reviewing the history of the successive generations of Putnam county, Ohio, the historian is compelled to take large note of the influence exerted upon this community by those sturdy settlers of German birth, who in a past generation did so well their part in helping to lay the foundation upon which the noble superstructure of substantial social, moral, civic, commercial and industrial worth has been erected. Among these worthy representatives of the former generation who are still living to give to the present generation in this county the benefit of their ripe experience and judgment, few are better known than the venerable Henry Kottenbrock, a pioneer resident of Ottawa township, who, as he nears the non-agenarian stage of his life, is comfortably and happily situated in the home of his daughter, the good wife of Township Trustee Joseph Klausing, of Ottawa township, a home which Mr. Kottenbrock practically wrested from the grasp of the wilderness many years before.

Henry Kottenbrock was born in Oldenburg, Germany, on June 15, 1827, a son of Herman and Katherine (Scheele) Kottenbrock. He grew up in Germany, learning there the thoroughness of discipline and the value of thrift so much insisted on in the German system of education, and at the age of

twenty-one decided to come to America, many glowing accounts of the advantages others of his fellow townsmen and some of his kinsfolk had found awaiting them on this side of the Atlantic, having come back to his part of the Fatherland. He landed at New Orleans, where he remained for a time, and afterward joined the Glandorf colony in Putnam county. He had learned the trade of shoe-making at his home in Germany and during the early days of his residence here continued to follow this trade, making his home with an uncle, who some time before had come to America and who owned a farm of forty acres southwest of Ottawa. Encouraged by the good word sent back home by their son, Henry Kottenbrock's parents presently joined him at Glandorf, and entered upon the life of a pioneer farmer, renting the uncle's land. At that time this section of the county was very sparsely settled, there being only a few houses in Glandorf. Soon after settling in this county, Mr. Kottenbrock's father died on this farm, where he had lived all his life, and Henry and the other members of the family purchased the uncle's property and continued to make it their home.

At the age of twenty-seven, more than sixty years ago, Mr. Kottenbrock married Elizabeth Feltman, who was born in Glandorf, the daughter of Henry Feltman and wife, who had come from Hanover in pioneer times, having been among the first to join Professor Horstman's historic colony. After his marriage, Mr. Kottenbrock continued to live on the farm which had been taken over from the uncle and on which he still lives. In the early days, in addition to his duties as a manager of the farm, he plied his trade of shoe-making with much industry, and prospered apace, gradually adding to his holdings until eventually he owned three hundred and sixty acres of fine land.

To Henry and Elizabeth (Feltman) Kottenbrock there were born twelve children: Joseph died when two years old; Elizabeth died in infancy, and Herman grew up and was killed in a coal mine disaster in North Dakota. The nine children of this family still living are: Henry, who makes his home in North Dakota; Mrs. Mary Rechline, who lives in Miller City, this county; William, who also lives in North Dakota; John, who resides on the old home place; Annie, the wife of August Kneuve, lives in Missouri; Barney, a successful farmer, who lives in the southwestern part of Ottawa township, this county; Frank, a farmer of Pleasant township, this county; Mrs. Kate Fembert, of Ottawa township, and Amelia, wife of Joseph Klausing, township trustee of Ottawa township. The mother of these children died in 1903, and the aged father continues to make his home in the old home place, where the evening of his life is being made pleasant by the ministrations of his daughter, Mrs. Klausing, and her family, and where he constantly is in

receipt of the kindest attentions of the entire neighborhood, in which this pioneer is held in the highest regard by all.

Mr. Kottenbrock is one of the oldest inhabitants of Putnam county, and the biographer finds much pleasure in presenting to the readers of this volume this interesting biographical sketch. He has been a considerable traveler in his day and continues to take an active interest in current affairs. He has been to North Dakota and to the World's Fair and other places of interest, and still visits and goes about with as much activity as many men of much fewer years. Mr. Kottenbrock is a genial old gentleman, who is highly esteemed in the community in which he so long has lived and is a most entertaining host, having in his mind an inexhaustible fund of reminiscences of the days gone by. His hearing still is good and he is keenly alert to all matters of neighborhood interest and concern. He has also visited his daughter, Mrs. Kneuve, in Portageville, Missouri.

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#### ANDREW GERDEMAN.

Among the many German families in Putnam county there are few which have a wider connection or acquaintance or whose members have exerted a more active influence upon the best life of the respective communities in which they reside, than the family of Gerdeman, which has been honorably represented in this county since the year 1837, in which year John D. Gerdeman came to America and located in Putnam county. He was the father of eight children, of whom five were sons, and the name, consequently, has become one of the best known in that portion of the county in which its influence has been most largely exerted. This family has done well its part in maintaining in this section the best traditions of the Fatherland, which John D. Gerdeman and others of his kind so firmly inculcated in the minds of those who followed them in natural descent hereabout; industry, thrift and perseverance being traits which have operated largely in the establishment of the numerous prosperous Germanic families in this county. Among these families, few are better known than that of Andrew Gerdeman, of Ottawa township, and the reader's attention is invited to the following brief biography, which has to do with one of the sons of John D. Gerdeman above referred to.

Andrew Gerdeman was born on the farm, three miles southeast of Ottawa, in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, on August 11, 1864, the son of

John D. and Mary Ann (Redecker) Gerdeman, both natives of Hanover, Germany. John D. Gerdeman was born in 1817, and came to America in the year 1837, proceeding to the town of Delphos, Ohio, where he spent about a year working in a saw-mill, at the end of which time he came to Putnam county and bought a farm south of that village, joining the large German colony that had settled in the Glandorf neighborhood, on which farm the immediate subject of this sketch now makes his home. On this farm, which he wrested from the wilderness and brought to a high state of cultivation, John D. Gerdeman spent the rest of his life and made for himself a distinctive place in the community, long being regarded as one of the most influential men in that community.

John D. Gerdeman married Mary Ann Redecker, who was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1829, and who, at the tender age of four years, came to America with her parents and grew to womanhood on a farm about one mile south of the town of Ottawa. To this union were born eight children, of whom six are still living: Anna died at the age of four years; Frank died in 1911, leaving a widow and six children; Joseph, an Ottawa township farmer, married Mary Schleuter, to which union there was issue of seven children; Mary Ann married Herman Gosling, and Elizabeth married Henry Hermiller. The other sons, besides Andrew, the subject of this sketch, are Henry and Theodore. The father of these children died on January 5, 1890, in his seventy-third year, his widow surviving him until March 31, 1909.

Andrew Gerdeman was reared on the paternal farm and received his education in the local schools of his neighborhood, his training being that of a farmer. On May 24, 1887, Mr. Gerdeman was united in marriage to Kate Nierman, who was born at Glandorf, this county, the daughter of August and Mary (Krieger) Nierman, the former of whom was a native of Germany and the latter of whom was born in Glandorf, in Putnam county. August and Mary (Krieger) Nierman were married in Glandorf, Putnam county, and settled on a farm in Ottawa township, and lived there for many years. He died on this farm on February 22, 1881, after which she removed to Glandorf, where she still lives. Their children were Annie, Katherine, Mary, John, August and Magdalene, all of whom are still living.

Following his marriage, Andrew Gerdeman remained on the home farm, where he since has continued to reside. He has a well equipped establishment for successful farming on his place of one hundred and twenty acres, and is known as one of the most progressive agriculturists in his neighborhood, as well as a wide-awake and public-spirited citizen, who is alert to all move-



ments designed to promote the best interests of the community in which all his life thus far has been spent.

To Andrew and Kate (Nierman) Gerdeman have been born seven children, as follow: Albert, who married Veronica Meyer, by whom he has one son, Leonard, lives at Toledo, Ohio, where he is in the employ of the Gendron Wheel Works; Hubert, who married Rosa Ruhe, lives in Ottawa township; Hugo, Alexander, Edmund, Otto and Felix, all of whom are at home. The members of this family are all devoted adherents to the Catholic church at Glandorf and are deeply interested in the affairs of the parish, in the various activities of which they take a prominent part.

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### FRANK RECKER.

Frank Recker was born on January 26, 1862, on the farm where he still lives, about one mile south of Glandorf, Putnam county, the son of Herman Henry and Mary (Kottenbrock) Becker, both of whom were representative pioneers of their neighborhood.

Herman Henry Recker was born in Hanover, Germany, on June 24, 1816, the son of John H. and Anna M. (Linckemeyer) Recker. His wife, Mary, also was born in Germany, at Oldenburg, the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Huntman) Kottenbrock, who came to this country in the year 1836, when Mary was eleven years of age, settling in the Glandorf neighborhood as a part of Professor Horstman's famous colony, at which place Herman Henry Recker had located a few years before, and it was here, at Glandorf, January 7, 1840, that Herman Henry Recker and Mary Kottenbrock were married and where they spent the rest of their lives, being regarded by their pioneer neighbors as among the most useful and influential residents of that section of the county, and, were especially notable for their manifold good works, the memory of which survives in that community long after them.

It was about the year 1832 that Herman Henry Recker, the father of Frank Recker, then having reached the adventurous age of sixteen, decided to put in his lot with that of so many of his countrymen, who, about that time, were leaving for the farther shores of the Atlantic. He landed at New Orleans and for about a year remained in the South, looking around him and acquiring something of the manners and customs of the people of his adopted country. Gradually working his way up from New Orleans, he

presently found himself in the newly settled town of Glandorf, and it did not take him long to decide permanently to become a member of Father Horstman's colony. On the way over from Lima, following the trail which was the only highway at that time, he was met by two Indians, who were leisurely proceeding along the trail on their ponies. These aboriginals accosted him, but as he could not understand their language or gather from their gestures their meaning, he decided to give them a wide berth. When they offered him something to drink, which was contained in a big tin vessel, he declined their proffer, not knowing what their designs upon his life might be, and they presently rode away without having offered him molestation. Upon narrating the incident upon his arrival among friends at Glandorf, the young adventurer found himself laughed at, the explanation being made by his more experienced compatriots that the Indians simply had desired to declare their friendly intentions by offering him a drink of whisky.

At Glandorf Herman Henry Becker grew to manhood, learning all the ways of the pioneer farmer and becoming deeply versed in woodcraft and the most approved methods for dealing with virgin forest soil, clearing it and preparing it for cultivation. He entered from the government a tract of forty acres of land, about a mile south of Glandorf, to which he later added a neighboring tract of forty acres that he had acquired by purchase, and here he spent the rest of his life. On his original forty, which now is in the possession of his son, Frank, there was not so much as the mark of an ax when he entered it and the task of clearing this kept him busy for the first few years of his residence in this county. After his marriage he had an earnest and able helpmeet and he and his good wife early became recognized as among the leaders in that interesting pioneer community, and held all their lives the most devoted regard of all their neighbors. Henry Herman Recker was a man of noble character, a man to whom his neighbors willingly came for advice and counsel and as willingly were content to abide by that advice and counsel, realizing that it was based upon the soundest judgment and the most earnest desire for the advancement of the best interests of all. He was essentially a peacemaker, and during his long life had the pleasure of adjusting many a neighborhood difference, all recognizing the goodness of his word. It was but natural that the community should elevate Mr. Recker to positions of public honor and trust, and for twenty-one years he presided in his township as justice of the peace, in which office he ever strove to settle local differences without lawsuits, many cases being settled in this fashion, by kindly counsel and compromise, although, by such methods, the justice of the peace was deprived of the fees which would have come to him under the

ordinary processes of the law. Though Mr. Recker had secured no schooling in the English language, he was a man of fine powers of observation and quickly acquired the use of the language of his adopted country, which he not only spoke fluently, but wrote readily, being an excellent penman and an accurate speller of the English, these accomplishments having been picked up wholly by himself. From 1868 to 1874 Mr. Recker served Putnam county as a commissioner, his service in this connection being valuable to the public. Soon after this he was appointed to the position of superintendent of the county infirmary, which trying position he filled in such a manner as to commend his methods to all. In 1880 he served his second term as land appraiser, in all his public acts keeping the welfare of the public ever in his mind. He was popular, large-hearted and generous, and his friends were limited only to the number of those who knew him, and at his death there was wide and sincere mourning throughout the county.

To Herman Henry and Mary (Kottenbrock) Recker nine children were born, all of whom grew to maturity, and all of whom are living save Anna, who was the wife of Charles Schroeder, the others being, in the order of their birth: Henry; John; Mary, the wife of William Schmitschulte; Kate, the widow of John Klafor; Elizabeth, the wife of Joseph Leopold; Herman; Frank, the immediate subject of this review, and Minnie, widow of the late William Hermiller. The father of the above family died on January 16, 1884, his widow surviving until April 6, 1907.

Frank Recker grew up on the home farm under the careful direction of his thoughtful parents and was given all the advantages offered by the local schools. At the end of his schooling period he determined to follow the life of a farmer. On June 22, 1886, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary Feltman, who was born in Glandorf, the daughter of Bernard and Katherine Elizabeth (Niese) Feltman, the former of whom was the son of pioneer parents, who came to this country from Glandorf, Germany, and settled at Glandorf, this county, soon after Father Horstman and his party established their colony here.

In addition to his farming operations, Frank Recker for three years was engaged in the hardware business with August Fisher, at Glandorf. He sold this interest in 1908 and went to Texas, where he engaged in the hardware business for a year, at the end of which time he sold out and returned to the old home place in Ottawa township, Putnam county, where he has since continued to reside. Besides farming, he runs a portable power-ditching machine and also deals quite a little in live stock. Before dividing his farm with his sons, he owned two hundred and sixty acres of land, one of the

choicest farms in the county. In addition to the close attention he has been compelled to give to his personal affairs, Mr. Recker has found time to devote proper attention to public affairs and has served well and acceptably in the position of township trustee, besides having held other local offices and is regarded distinctively as one of the leading men of affairs in his community.

To Frank and Mary (Feltman) Recker six children have been born, as follow: Ben, who lives one and one-half miles west of the old home in section 30, and who married Emma Verhoff; Louis, who married Anna Schroeder and lives in Pleasant township, about one mile southwest of the old home, and Joseph, Emma, Edwin and Dora.

The Reckers are devoted members of the Catholic church at Glandorf and are earnestly interested in the various beneficences of the parish, being very properly regarded as among the leaders in the good works of the community, and are admired and respected by all who have the pleasure of their acquaintance.

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#### J. FRED GERDEMAN.

J. Fred Gerdeman is a well-known and popular citizen of Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, and a successful dairyman of this township. Mr. Gerdeman is a man who is much admired by his neighbors and patrons and is known for his keen perceptive faculties, unusual soundness of judgment and upright dealings with all his patrons. Today his name stands high on the roll of the honored citizens of Putnam county. He is a member of one of the old pioneer families of this county and there is particular interest in his career in the fact that, like his many worthy forbears, he has forged his way to the front and won a rather unusual measure of success.

J. Fred Gerdeman was born on July 4, 1879, just north of Ottawa. He is the son of Mathias and Elizabeth (Ellerbrock) Gerdeman. Mathias Gerdeman was born in Osnabruck, Hanover, Germany, on November 13, 1833, who was the son of Caspar and Mary (Kruse) Gerdeman. Caspar and Mary (Kruse) Gerdeman came to America when Mathias was five or six years old, and settled west of Glandorf, four or five miles in pioneer times. Caspar and Mary (Kruse) Gerdeman were married in Germany. In 1836 they settled in Putnam county, Greensburg township, on a farm of eighty acres of government land. This farm was cleared and drained and the home established in the wilderness. The children of Caspar and Mary (Kruse) Gerdeman are



J. FRED GERDEMAN.



as follow: Mathias, deceased; Bernadina, deceased; Theodore, deceased; Mary; Henry; Joseph; Caspar; Elizabeth, and Anna, deceased. Of these, Theodore served in Company I, Thirty-seventh Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, during the Civil War. He was captured during the war, but released on account of illness and was confined in the marine hospital at St. Louis; Mathias was educated in Greensburg township and married Elizabeth Ellerbrock, daughter of William Ellerbrock and wife who was a Dickman, the latter of whose parents came from Glandorf, Germany, and settled in Ottawa township where they were farmers. The children of Mathias Gerdeman and wife were Fred; Joseph; Frank; Mary; Anna, deceased, and Theresa. Caspar Gerdeman died on June 14, 1891, and his wife died on April 24, 1889.

Mathias Gerdeman was a carpenter and architect for thirty-five years. He began about 1850, and, in 1882, purchased a farm about two miles north of Ottawa and there spent the rest of his life. He died in 1908. His wife died in 1903. They had six children, Anna became the wife of Andrew Ringleim. She died on August 11, 1914. The five children living are Frank, of Findlay; Mrs. Mary Utrup, of Ottawa; Mrs. Theresa Herringhaus, of Lima; Joseph, who lives south of Kalida, and Fred, the subject of this review.

Fred Gerdeman grew up where he now lives. Early in life he took a course in dairying at Ohio State University. This was eleven years ago. He farmed the home place where he lives, two miles north of Ottawa, for many years and now has one hundred and sixty acres of good land. In 1912 Mr. Gerdeman engaged in dairying and has a herd of thirty-eight good cattle. He has modern equipment, including a steam turbine for cleaning the bottles. He also has all the other machinery needed for the modern dairy.

On October 12, 1904, J. Fred Gerdeman was married to Mary Kreinbrink, who was born at Avilla, Indiana, and who is the daughter of Theodore and Frances (Teders) Kreinbrink.

Theodore Kreinbrink was born in Covington, Kentucky on March 17, 1854, and is the son of Frederick and Mary Elizabeth (Barringhaus) Kreinbrink. Frederick Kreinbrink was born in Hagen, Hanover, Germany, and was a son of Herman Kreinbrink and wife, who, with his family, came to America during the thirties and lived first at Cincinnati. A few years later they settled at Glandorf, Putnam county, during the time Professor Horstman and his party were opening the country around Glandorf. Herman Kreinbrink helped dig the old canal and lived near Glandorf the remainder of his life. He died in that neighborhood at the age of eighty-four years.

Mrs. Gerdeman's maternal grandmother, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Barringhaus, came from Germany at the age of twelve years with her parents who settled at Covington, Kentucky. After she and Frederick Kreinbrink were married, they moved to Avilla, Indiana, where Theodore grew up on a farm. In October, 1879, he married Frances Teders, who was born at Cincinnati and is the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Kruse) Teders, both natives of Germany who were married in Cincinnati. They moved to a farm near Avilla and there Mrs. Kreinbrink grew up. After she and Mr. Kreinbrink were married, they lived on a farm for twenty years. He had a farm of his own and lived there until 1899, when they moved to Putnam county and engaged in farming, about three miles north of Ottawa. Five years later, they moved south of Ottawa and lived there for two years, where they moved back to Ottawa, where they still reside. They have seven children, Fred; Mary, who married Fred Gerdeman; John; Julius; Frances who married Fred Drerup; Estelle, now Mrs. Oscar Dimkey, and Agnes. The family all belong to the Catholic church.

J. Fred and Mary (Kreinbrink) Gerdeman have had five children, Mildred, Maria, Genevieve, James and Wilfred. They all belong to the Catholic church at Ottawa. Fraternally, Mr. Gerdeman belongs to the Knights of Columbus and also to the Catholic Knights of Ohio.

The Gerdeman family is well known in this section and all are highly respected and honored citizens, having performed every duty in life and having led respectful, industrious and useful careers.

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#### HENRY JOHN BENNING.

One of the leaders in the educational life of Putnam county, Ohio, is Henry John Benning, who has been connected with the schools of this county since 1901. His first position in this county was as superintendent of the Ottoville schools, but since 1909 he has been located at Glandorf as superintendent of the schools of that place, as well as district superintendent of the township schools of Ottawa, Greensburg township, and eight special school districts of the county. Mr. Benning is a musician of exceptional ability and is a fine performer on the pipe organ. He has taken an active part in the life of Glandorf since locating in that place and is justly considered one of its representative citizens.

Henry John Benning, the son of John W. and Minnie (Luckeroth) Ben-



ning, was born in Stillwater, Minnesota, in 1878. His parents were born in Westphalia and Cologne, Germany, respectively, and were married at Stillwater, Minnesota. The family moved to St. Joseph, Minnesota, when Mr. Benning was eight years of age, where his father is now living. John W. Benning was formerly a carpenter, but is now following agricultural pursuits. His wife is deceased.

Henry John Benning was reared on the farm from the time he was eight until he was sixteen years of age. He graduated from the Minneapolis high school and then taught school two years in Morrison county, Minnesota, after which he entered the Catholic Normal College at Milwaukee, where he finished the normal and also a musical course. He remained another year and took a post-graduate course in music, studying both vocal and instrumental music, but making a specialty of the pipe organ.

In 1901 Mr. Benning came to Ottoville, Putnam county, Ohio, as superintendent of the schools and organist of the Immaculate Conception Catholic church. When he came to Ottoville he found the schools ungraded, with only three teachers in charge, but when he left there, in 1909, there were five teachers, the schools were graded and a high school course was being given. In the fall of 1909 he became superintendent of the Glandorf schools and organist of the St. John's Catholic church at that place. He started the high school at Glandorf when he came here in that year, which is second to none in the county, and now ranks as a second-grade high school. He introduced a commercial course and the graduates of this course rank with the best students of the average business college. In addition to having direct charge of the schools at Glandorf, he has general supervision over several rural schools of the county, has been a member of the board of school examiners of Putnam county for the past four years, and has also been a member of the executive committee of the teachers' institute, holding this latter position for the past six years. At the present time he is president of the quarterly teachers' institute.

Mr. Benning was married, August 20, 1902, to Catherine Kortokrax, who was born at Ottoville, Putnam county, Ohio, on May 7, 1882, and is a daughter of Christopher and Anna M. (Schroeder) Kortokrax, both natives of Hanover, Germany. Mrs. Benning's parents were married in their native country, and after coming to this country lived at Delphos, and later moved to Ottoville, Putnam county, where her father died on February 8, 1886. Mr. Benning and his wife are the parents of five children: Jerome, Anthony, Raymond, Adelaide and Dorothy.

Mr. Benning has taken an active part in the life of his community. He

was secretary of the Glandorf Telephone Company, and is vice-president of the St. John's Aid Society and recording secretary of the Catholic Knights of Ohio. He and his family are earnest and devout members of the Catholic church at Glandorf.

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### JOSEPH KLAUSING.

There are many public offices over which more of a fight is made in local campaigns and many offices which, in the common estimation, seem to carry more of honor and distinction, than that of the office of township trustee, but it cannot be gainsaid that this latter office is one of the most important in the gift of the people and the importance to the public of having the office filled by a man of high principle, sound judgment and perfect honesty of purpose, ought never to be underestimated in the making up of the tickets of the various parties when seeking the franchises of the people. That the people of Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, realize this fully, is shown by their action in returning to the post which he had held so acceptably, for one term, the present incumbent in the office of township trustee of Ottawa township, Joseph Klausing, one of the best-known farmers of Putnam county, who is now serving his second term as trustee of his home township. In this office, Mr. Klausing has in his charge some of the most important public interests of his neighbors and that he has proved faithful to this trust, his recent re-election may be accepted as conclusive evidence.

Joseph Klausing was born on March 28, 1878, at Glandorf, this county, the son of John and Magdalene (Leopold) Klausing, a sketch of whose interesting family history is presented elsewhere in the biographical section of this admirable history of Putnam county.

When Joseph Klausing was three years of age, his family moved to his father's present farm, northeast of Ottawa, this county, where he grew to manhood, learning, under his father's careful instructions, the rudiments of agriculture, lessons he was in later years to turn to such excellent personal advantage. He gained, through this preparatory period, such schooling as was afforded by the local schools of that period, and acquired an interest in schools which he has carried through life and which he has turned to the advantage of the public during his continued incumbency of the office of township trustee and as a member of the school board of the town of Glandorf.

On June 12, 1901, Mr. Klausing was united in marriage to Miss Amelia Kottenbrock, who was born in the same house in which she now lives, a

short distance southwest of Ottawa, the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Feltman) Kottenbrock) and a sketch of whose family is found elsewhere in this volume. To this union five children have been born, Adelia Elizabeth, John Henry, Alexander William, Albert Frank and Mary Magdalene, a lively family of youngsters who make merry the home of the genial township trustee. The members of this family are devoted adherents of the Catholic church at Glandorf, in the various beneficences of which they take a proper interest.

Since his marriage, Mr. Klausing has continued to follow agricultural pursuits and has made his home on the Kottenbrock farm, the girlhood home of his wife. Both he and Mrs. Klausing own land, their combined holdings comprising an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty-seven acres. In addition to serving his second term as township trustee and serving on the Glandorf school board, Mr. Klausing has received other evidences of the regard in which the voters of his neighborhood hold him and has held various other local positions of public trust. He is a Democrat and his counsels are considered of value by the party managers in the county, who have learned to rely upon the soundness of his judgment in the making up of estimates concerning political conditions in his own neighborhood. In the community which he serves so creditably in a public capacity, Mr. Klausing is deservedly held in high repute and he and his family are very popular in the social circle which stands for all good things in Ottawa township and the Glandorf neighborhood.

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### JOHN ROSENBAUER.

One of the enterprising and successful farmers of Putnam county, Ohio, who has succeeded in his chosen vocation, largely because of his own courage, persistency and good management, is John Rosenbauer, of Ottawa township, a man who believes in lending what aid he can to his neighbors and the general public, while advancing his own personal interests. Consequently, he is regarded as one of the best citizens of Ottawa township, and a man eminently entitled to representation in a work of this character.

John Rosenbauer was born in 1877, just west of Glandorf, Putnam county. He is the son of Barney and Agnes (Nuevemann) Rosenbauer, the former born on the same farm as his son, John, in September, 1847. Barney Rosenbauer is a son of John and Mary (Berning) Rosenbauer. John Rosenbauer came from Saxony and his wife from Emsdetten, Germany. They

were married in America and were early settlers in Putnam county, where they purchased their land from Professor Horstman and lived and died in Glandorf.

Barney Rosenbauer grew up here and was married to Agnes Nuevemann, who was born in Glandorf, Hanover, Germany, and who lived there when Hanover was taken by Prussia. She is a daughter of Theodore and Catherine (Hoffman) Nueveman. Her father died in the old country and she and her two sisters, Mrs. Fred Michel, of Ottawa township, and Mrs. George Recker, of Sheppard, Michigan, came to this country in 1871, arriving at Glandorf in June of that year. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Barney Rosenbauer lived nine years on the old homestead, at Glandorf, and then one year in Union township, after which they purchased a farm from George Uphaus, one and one-fourth miles west of Glandorf, just south of the railroad, and here they lived until Mr. Rosenbauer's death. He purchased eighty acres of land and was a successful farmer. John is the eldest of three children, born to this union. Barney Rosenbauer died on April 6, 1905; Mary also is deceased, and his widow still lives on the home place.

John Rosenbauer, the subject of this sketch, was married, June 9, 1903, to Elizabeth Birkemeier, who was born in the western part of Ottawa township, along the Kalida road. She is the daughter of William and Bernardine (Uphaus) Birkemeier.

William Birkemeier was born on March 4, 1842, about two miles southwest of Glandorf, Putnam county, the son of William, Sr., and Catherine (Dickman) Birkemeier. William Birkemeier, Sr., was born in Glandorf, Germany, and grew up there and married Catherine Dickman. They came to America in pioneer times and located on the farm where William, Jr., was born. This they bought and made their permanent home. William, Sr., died about 1875 and his widow about 1890. William, Jr., grew up there and in 1863 was married to Mary Bernardine Uphaus, who was born about one and one-fourth miles west of Glandorf near where the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad now runs. She is the daughter of John G. and Catherine (Poeppelman) Uphaus, who came to America in 1835, where they located in section 30 of Ottawa township on a farm of one hundred and four acres, containing a round-log cabin. A few acres of their farm were cleared and improved. Cultivation was continued with assiduous care by the father until his death in January, 1884, at the age of eighty-two years, his wife having died on May 19, 1881, at the age of seventy-eight years. Mr. Uphaus was a staunch Democrat and held several local offices. He was treasurer of Ottawa township for nine years and was one of the organizers and incorporators of

the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Putnam county. For twenty-five years, he was its president, also being a carpenter and farmer. He was a devout member of the Catholic church at Glandorf and in all ways was a useful citizen.

After William Birkemeier was married, he spent the remainder of his life on the farm of about one hundred and twenty acres, where he was born and where his son now lives. He died in 1910 and his wife in 1912. They were devout members of the Catholic church at Glandorf. Their children were as follow: William; Henry; Frank; Elizabeth, the wife of Mr. Rosenbauer; Mary, the wife of William Ellerbrock, and Bernard, living at Kalida.

Since his marriage, Mr. Rosenbauer has farmed the place where he was reared and where he now lives. He and his wife are the parents of three children, Mary, Harry and Raymond. The family are all members of the Catholic church at Glandorf and liberal contributors to its support.

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### JOHN DIEMER.

One of the most public-spirited and popular residents of Ottawa township, this county, is John Diemer, whose name engages the attention of the reader of this page of the biographical section of the "History of Putnam County." Mr. Diemer not only has made a success of his farming operations in this county, but has firmly fixed his place in the regard of his fellow citizens. Mr. Diemer is at present serving his second term as trustee of Ottawa township.

John Diemer was born in the year 1871 at New Bavaria, Henry county, Ohio, the son of Peter and Isabelle (Zoll) Diemer, the former of whom also was a native of New Bavaria, a son of John and Catherine (Wien) Diemer.

John Diemer, paternal grandfather of the subject of this biographical review, came from Germany, probably from Bavaria, and located at New Bavaria, Ohio, where he spent the rest of his life, and it was here that Peter Diemer, father of Trustee Diemer, grew to manhood and spent the most of his life. Peter Diemer engaged in farming in Henry county, remaining there until late in life when he retired and moved to Leipsic, in this county, where his death occurred four or five years later, on January 23, 1907. During his long residence in Henry county, Peter Diemer also was engaged in the saw-milling business and also managed a threshing-machine outfit for many years. He was a man of substance, one of the leading citizens of his neighborhood

and several times was called on to serve the public in offices of trust and responsibility. For several terms he served as trustee of Pleasant township, Henry county, and also had served as assessor of Marion township, in the same county.

Peter Diemer's wife, Isabelle Zoll, mother of the subject of this sketch, was born in Findlay, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Zoll, Pennsylvania Germans, who moved to Hancock county, where Mrs. Diemer was born, later, while the latter was a little girl, they moved to Henry county, where they spent the rest of their days engaged in farming. Mrs. Peter Diemer now lives in Leipsic, this county, and is regarded with the highest respect by all who know her. To Peter and Isabelle (Zoll) Diemer four children were born: John, Mary, Charles and Christina. Mary is the wife of John Zenz and Christina is the wife of Lawrence Seimet.

John Diemer lived on his father's farm, in Henry county, until his marriage, in 1894, when he started farming on land which he rented from his father in that county. In 1905 the latter sold this farm and bought another place, about two miles northeast of Ottawa, where John Diemer has lived ever since, and where he has a farm of eighty-three and one-half acres, under a high state of cultivation. He has been a good manager and public-spirited citizen, a good "mixer" in the neighborhood, and consequently, is popular with all the people of that section of the county. He has served on the township school board and is now township trustee, having been elected, in 1913, to succeed himself to the office to which he came by appointment in 1911, his administration having proved so popular as to recommend him for re-election.

On November 27, 1894, John Diemer was united in marriage to Mary Werner, who was born near New Bavaria, but across the line in Putnam county, the daughter of Matthias and Catherine (Gedart) Werner, both of whom were natives of Prussia.

In the year 1846, when Matthias Werner was nineteen years of age, he accompanied his parents to America, the family first locating in Lorain county, later moving to St. Louis, Missouri, where the father died. The mother later married Mr. Baumgardner and moved to New Bavaria, Henry county, where she spent the rest of her life, her death occurring on March 12, 1910.

Matthias Werner remained in Lorain county many years and there, about the year 1850, married Catherine Gedart, the daughter of Joseph and Catherine (Schmitz) Gedart, who had come from Prussia, when she was about ten years of age, and who spent the remainder of their lives in Lorain county. Following his marriage, Matthias Werner moved to Putnam county

and was counted among the early settlers of the northern part of Palmer township, where he spent the most of his life. His last days, however, were spent with Mr. and Mrs. Diemer, in Ottawa township, his death occurring on January 6, 1911, his wife having preceded him to the grave the previous year, her death having occurred on March 12, 1910.

Matthias and Catherine (Gedart) Werner were the parents of thirteen children: Jacob, who died at the age of two years; John; Joseph; Emma, deceased; Nicholas, deceased; Kate, deceased, all of whom died of diphtheria within ten days while the family was living in Lorain county, it having been this tragic succession of death which prompted the family to leave Lorain and move to Putnam county; Peter; Kate, who married John Melcher; Frank; George; Jacob; Josephine, deceased, and Mary, the wife of Mr. Diemer.

To John and Mary (Werner) Diemer have been born nine children, all of whom are living and all of whom are at home, making the Diemer home one of the liveliest and pleasantest, from a social standpoint, of any in that section of the county. This lively family of youngsters are: Clara Isabelle, Bernard Peter, Charles Raymond, Christina Loretta, Agnes Cecelia, John Albert, Martha Marie, Lidella Lucetta and Alice Dorthy.

Mr. and Mrs. Diemer and their children are all devoted members of the Catholic church at Ottawa, and are active participants in the various beneficences of the parish, being very properly regarded among the leaders in the good works of the community in which they live and whose most vital interests they have so deeply at heart. Both in his public and in his private relations, Mr. Diemer is trying to do his duty by his fellow men and is counted as one of the substantial and influential men in his part of the county. He is a Democrat and in the local councils of his party his voice is listened to with respect, consideration being given his judgments regarding men and measures when such matters come up for public discussion.

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### BARNEY KOTTENBROCK.

Among the numerous families which came with, or later joined, the historic colony which Father Horstman established in Putnam county, Ohio, at an early day in the settlement of the county, few family names are better known than that of Kottenbrock, there being numerous representatives of the family who have done well their part in the development of the various valuable resources of the now substantially established commonwealth.

One of the best-known representatives of this family, Barney Kottenbrock, a prosperous farmer of Ottawa township, was born on January 5, 1873, about one mile southwest of Ottawa, the son of Henry and Elizabeth Kottenbrock, well-known pioneers of that section, further mention of whose part in the development of the neighborhood in which they so long lived, is made on another page of this interesting volume of biographical sketches.

Barney Kottenbrock grew up on his father's farm, receiving the benefit of the schools of that day and the additional and very valuable benefit of the conscientious instructions of an earnest father and mother who instilled into his mind many wholesome lessons that are not taught at school, and prepared him for the active life of a farmer, which vocation he, early in life, decided was the thing for him to follow. At the age of twenty-five years, Barney Kottenbrock married Anna Fembert, who was born about one and one-half miles south of Ottawa, the daughter of Bernard Herman and Anna (Herlager) Fembert, and who died at the age of twenty-four, about a year after her marriage, leaving a daughter, Elizabeth.

The Femberts are an old family in Putnam county. B. Herman Fembert, father of the late Mrs. Kottenbrock, was born on a farm just south of Ottawa, in Ottawa township, in August, 1845, the son of Bernard Herman and Adelheid (Stegeman) Fembert, who were married in Hanover, Germany, and who came to America and located in the southwest part of this county not long after the establishment of the Horstman colony. Upon coming here, the Femberts, for a time, settled in a shanty located between Ft. Jennings and Delphos and for two years Mr. Fembert worked on the construction of the old canal. He then bought forty acres in section 34, Ottawa township, the land being just as the Indians left it, absolutely without improvements of any sort. At that time the Indians were taking their final departure from this part of Ohio and Mr. Fembert was brought much in contact with them. He liked the aboriginals and found that they always were good so long as they were treated right. In this unbroken forest he built his primitive cabin and cleared the land, between whiles going back to the canal work for the purpose of earning enough money for the subsistence of himself and family until his farm could be brought to a productive state. He was not only a farmer, but an expert wooden-shoe maker, at which latter handicraft he turned an additional penny from time to time. On this farm, which eventually contained one hundred and forty acres, the Femberts lived for many years and prospered. To Mr. and Mrs. Fembert nine children were born, three of whom died in their childhood. The elder Fembert remained on this farm until his children married, and then, his wife having died



when the son Herman was sixteen years of age, made his home during the rest of his life with his son Herman and family, his death occurring on June 16, 1894.

Bernard Herman Fembert, Jr., grew up on the farm, receiving such advantages as could be given the youth of that period, and at the age of twenty-two, in the year 1867, married Anna Herlager, who was born in Greensburg township, this county, her parents having been among the colonists who came over from Glandorf, Germany. Upon his marriage, the younger Fembert moved on to the farm on which he now resides, and which at that time was unbroken timber. He built on this place a cabin sixteen by twenty and started married life in the depths of the forest. As he cleared and improved this land, he gradually added to the original tract until now he has ninety-five acres of well-improved farming land. His wife died on September 15, 1877, leaving five children, Catherine, Mary, Anna, Frank and Bernard, the latter of whom died at the age of eleven months. Catherine, the wife of Frank Gramling, lives at Toledo, Ohio, and has four children, Charles, John, Arnold and Adeline; Mary, the wife of Barney Uphaus, lives at the northern edge of Pleasant township, this county, and has six children, Helen, Anna, Mary, John, Gertrude and Edward; Anna married Barney Kottenbrock, the immediate subject of this sketch, and died a year thereafter, leaving a daughter, Elizabeth; Frank, who was born in 1877, married Catherine Kottenbrock and lives on the home farm with his father. He has seven children, Bernard, John, Frank, Adeline, Albert, Lawrence and Lucile. The Femberts are all earnest members of the Catholic church.

After his marriage to Anna Fembert, Mr. Kottenbrock went to farming for himself on the farm where he now lives, two and one-half miles southwest of Ottawa. He started with eighty acres and now has one hundred and twenty acres of well-improved land, nearly all of these improvements, including a good house, barn and numerous outbuildings, having been added by himself.

Mr. Kottenbrock was married in 1900, a second time, to Mary Anna Duling, daughter of the late F. William and Mary Ann (Schroeder) Duling, who was born in Ottawa township on the paternal farm south of where she now lives.

The Dulings are an old family in Ottawa township, the late F. William Duling having been born in that township on March 20, 1845, the son of John H. and Mary K. (Holdmyer) Duling, who came from Osnabruck, Germany, in 1834, and settled in Putnam county, taking a farm in Ottawa town-

ship, west of Glandorf, being among the first settlers in that part of the county. On this farm, the late F. William Duling lived until his marriage on April 17, 1872, to Mary Ann Schroeder, who was born in Greensburg township on September 12, 1852, the daughter of John H. and Mary K. (Hohenbrink) Schroeder, both natives of Germany. John Henry Schroeder was born in 1821, the son of Nicholas H. and Anna L. (Trahine) Schroeder, who settled in this county in 1843, and his wife was born in 1820, the daughter of John W. and Christina (Pues) Hohenbrink, who settled in this county in 1843. They were married in 1846 and were long among the best-known residents of that section of the county, Mr. Schroeder dying on November 28, 1875, Mrs. Schroeder surviving many years, her death not occurring until October 1, 1899, at the age of seventy-eight years.

After Mr. Duling's marriage, he and his wife moved to the farm where he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring on September 18, 1909, his widow, still surviving, continuing to make her home on the old home place. When they entered upon possession of this farm only about one-half of it had been cleared and there had been no attempt at drainage. The Dulings started life together in a one-room, round-log cabin with clap-board roof, in typical pioneer fashion, but gradually extended the style of their living until, presently, they had a nice house and a good barn, with other improvements to match, and had enlarged the farm by the addition of forty acres across the road to the east and eighty acres south of the base line.

F. William and Mary Ann (Schroeder) Duling were the parents of four children, Henry John, who married Adeline Recker, and lives in Ottawa township; Mary Katherina, married Ignatius Kahle of Cuba, this county, and has six children, Frances, Amos, Clara, Henry, Hubert and Anna; Mary Anna, who married Mr. Kottenbrock; Frank Joseph, married, May 27, 1914, Rosa Barlage, who was born in Greensburg township, the daughter of B. Henry and Mary Barlage, and lives on the old home place with his mother. The Dulings are all earnest members of the Catholic church at Glandorf.

To the union of Barney and Mary Ann (Duling) Kottenbrock, nine children have been born, three of whom died in infancy, the others being Frances, September 4, 1902; Clarence, March 12, 1905; Mary, November 3, 1907; Emma, August 27, 1909; Anna, November 10, 1911; and Mildred, May 22, 1914, a lively little family, the pride and joy of their parents' hearts. The Kottenbrocks are devoted adherents of the Catholic church and are earnestly interested in the various beneficences of the Glandorf parish, doing their part in all the good works of the community. They are popular and highly esteemed and are regarded as among the leaders in their large social circle.

## JOHN FERDINAND ELLERBROCK.

There is nothing which stimulates a man to deeds of worth and a life of uprightness and rectitude more than the recollection of the strength of character and examples of right living which have been shown by his forbears. In this respect, John F. Ellerbrock was fortunate beyond the majority of men in being descended from ancestors who have been men of strength and influence in their communities, and who have done their duty well, whether in the peaceful pursuits of ordinary life or in positions of public trust. A heritage of such memory is of more value than the heritage of material wealth. In the business and agricultural affairs of his community, Mr. Ellerbrock occupied a position of importance among those who conserve the commercial and social resources of this community, and none occupied a higher standing among his associates.

John Ferdinand Ellerbrock was born on November 9, 1832, at Glandorf, Hanover, Germany. He was a son of Theodore and Mary (Kracht) Ellerbrock. John F. was two years old when his parents brought him to America. They settled first in Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, where they engaged in farming. Theodore Ellerbrock came to the United States with no resources whatever, and for many years was a farmer. He succeeded in a liberal measure, by dint of steady and persevering industry, and was the owner of a good farm. He was the founder also of the Glandorf woolen mills, and, associated with others, operated the mill as long as he lived.

John Ferdinand Ellerbrock grew up at Glandorf, and had the usual experiences which fall to the lot of a lad reared in a farming community, receiving his education in the public schools of his day.

Mr. Ellerbrock was married to Theresa Kleman, who was born south of Glandorf and was a daughter of Andrew and Mary E. (Gerdeman) Kleman. She was a sister of John H. Kleman, whose life story is found elsewhere in this volume. After Mr. Ellerbrock's marriage, he made his home in section 28, Ottawa township, where he lived until his death. He was a life-long farmer and lived on the same farm several years more than half a century. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children: Catherine, deceased, was the wife of Henry Meyer, and lived at Cleveland; Mary, the wife of Barney Schmenk, lives southwest of Leipsic; Elizabeth, the wife of Joseph Meyer, a farmer living southwest of Leipsic; Theodore died in May, 1899, and left a wife but no children; Joseph, a farmer living in section 5 of Pleasant township, married Bernardina Siebeneck, and they have five children;

Andrew, unmarried, lives on his father's farm; Anna, the wife of Henry Meyer, lives in section 8 of Pleasant township, and they have five living children; Theresa, the wife of Theodore Meyer, lives in Blanchard township, south of Leipsic, and has four living children; Bernard, living on the home farm, married Agnes Schroeder, and they have two children; Lucy is the wife of Henry Wise, a resident of New Cleveland, and they have five children; Agnes is the wife of Anthony Wise, of New Cleveland, and they have five children.

Thus Mr. and Mrs. Ellerbrock lived to rear a large family of children, who have been a credit to their father and mother, and who, in turn, have become heads of families themselves. In this respect Mr. Ellerbrock has done more for the present generation than he possibly could have done in any other way. His sons and daughters are highly respected citizens in the various communities where they live, a fact which, no doubt, was a source of great comfort and cheer to their parents while they lived. Mrs. Mary Ellerbrock died on March 27, 1884, and John F. Ellerbrock died on the home farm on December 25, 1914. The family were all devout members of the Catholic church, in whose welfare they always took an active interest, and to the support of which they add both physical and material assistance.

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### JOSEPH McGINNIS.

It is proper to judge the success of a man's life by the estimation in which he is held by his neighbors and fellow citizens. They see him at work, in his family circle, in church, hear his views on public questions, observe the nature of his code of morals, witness how he conducts himself in all the relations of life, and are, therefore, competent to judge of his merits and demerits. In this connection, it is not too much to say that Joseph McGinnis lived a life of exceptional merit in Putnam county.

Mr. McGinnis was born on September 12, 1835, in Fairfield county, Ohio. He was a son of William and Rebecca (Guyton) McGinnis. William McGinnis was born in Huntington county, Pennsylvania, while his wife was born near Hagerstown, Maryland. They moved to Putnam county, Ohio, in an early day. Mr. McGinnis went to Wapakoneta, Ohio, and entered his land from the government, and was on his return from that place to Putnam county at the time of the great meteoric shower which took place in 1833. He entered land in section 7, of Ottawa township, and moved into the woods.

There were no roads at that time, except a wagon track up and down the Blanchard river. Here he spent the remainder of his life. He was a man of considerable political influence in his community and held several local offices. Joseph McGinnis was one of four children, of which number one died in infancy, and one died in early childhood. Margaret, one of the living children, is the widow of Samuel Hamilton.

Joseph McGinnis grew up as a pioneer on his father's farm. Early in life he married Mary Kraft, who was a native of Muskingum county, Ohio, a daughter of Abram Kraft and wife, who first moved to a farm near Columbus, after leaving Muskingum county, and later to a farm on Powell's Creek in Monroe township.

After his marriage, Mr. McGinnis lived on his farm of two hundred and fifty-three acres of land, in section 6, Ottawa township. He prospered in his agricultural efforts. Joseph McGinnis gave his children a good start in life as the consequence, of his frugality, industry and good management. While he made farming his chief occupation, he was a splendid mechanic, and to some extent had been successful in various other lines. Although Mr. McGinnis had always been prosperous and able to have all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life, he had never ridden on a steam railroad; had never been out of the county in his life, and had never played a game of cards or taken a drink of whisky. He believed that eternal vigilance is the price of success, and that the saving of time and money, in addition to his other habits, had proved their value.

Joseph and Mary (Kraft) McGinnis were the parents of three sons: Aaron, Elmer and William. Aaron was born on June 4, 1876, on the farm where his father lived. In 1899, he married Daisy Ury, who was born in pleasant township, and who is a daughter of Christ Ury and wife, who are still residents of Pleasant township. Aaron lives on a farm of his own in section 7. He is the father of four children: Lillian, Ida, Clifford and William Nelson. Elmer was born on July 10, 1879, on his father's farm, was educated in the district schools of his home neighborhood, as were his brothers, and on December 27, 1907, married Mabel Tingle. She was born in Liberty township, in this county, and is a daughter of Cloyd and Catherine (Bell) Tingle. Elmer McGinnis and wife are the parents of three children, Alta, Lucile and Mary Catherine. They live in section 6, of Ottawa township. William N., the youngest son, died at the age of twenty-one. The mother of these children died in the autumn of 1905.

Joseph McGinnis was a broad-minded man with a refreshing philosophical turn. He was possessed of a good, clean character, and never used pro-

fane language. He believed in a supreme being, who guides and controls all, although he was not a member of any church.

Although not a man of any established religious faith, he lived a useful life and did his duty in the community where he lived with the fearlessness of a man who follows his convictions. He was a man whose counsel was sought by those who were looking for wise guidance. Joseph McGinnis died on January 29, 1915.

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### JOHN D. BUESCHER.

Among the active, alert and progressive farmers of Putnam county, Ohio, is John D. Buescher, of Ottawa township.

John D. Buescher was born on September 2, 1857, about a mile from Ottawa, Putnam county, the son of John Henry and Elizabeth (Fenger) Buescher. John Henry Buescher was born on December 23, 1832, in Hanover, Germany, and came to America at the age of fourteen with his mother and step-father, Mr. Aversman. The latter bought a farm just north of the Findlay branch of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad and just west of Blanchard river. In 1845, when the family came to America, Putnam county was a new country, the land was all timber and Mr. Aversman first erected a log cabin, where John Henry Buescher grew up and spent a number of years on this place. He married Elizabeth Fenger, who was born in Germany and came to this country, in 1835, with her parents. John H. Buescher's step-father started the grist-mill at the east edge of his farm on the Blanchard river, the first mill in this part of the country. He was also a pioneer veterinarian. He was killed in the mill.

John Henry Buescher spent his boyhood on the farm, where John D. Buescher now lives. As a young man, he helped to build the canal, and saved his earnings, which were invested in a farm, one and one-half miles east of Ottawa. After his marriage, the young couple took up their home on the new farm. About one-half acre was cleared and there was an immense amount of labor involved in clearing the land and burning timber, so that crops might be raised. There was almost no sale for timber then.

On this pioneer farm, in a log cabin, John D. Buescher was born. He lived there until thirty years of age. When John D. was twenty-eight, his father bought the farm where the family had first settled, it having passed out of the family's possession before then. John Henry Buescher bought it at a sheriff's sale. He died on February 28, 1902, at the age of sixty-nine.

He was a life-long farmer and was possessed of a mind of a turn of an inventive genius. At one time he patented a gate for which he was offered two thousand dollars and forty acres in land.

John D. Buescher was married on October 12, 1887, to Jane Marie Hoffman. She was born northeast of Ottawa and is the daughter of Ferdinand and Catherine (Feldman) Hoffman. Ferdinand Hoffman was born in Germany on September 8, 1832, and came to Putnam county in 1835, with his parents, Henry Hoffman and wife, who located at Glandorf, just west of Cranberry creek, where the boy lived until fourteen years of age, when he went to Cincinnati and worked five years in a printing office. He returned to Glandorf, and, before he was twenty-one, married Catherine Feldman. She was born in Glandorf, Germany, in 1832, and when six weeks old, came to Glandorf, Putnam county, with the second set of colonists from Glandorf, Germany. Her parents located in Glandorf and spent their lives there.

For twenty years after his marriage, Ferdinand Hoffman lived on the farm northeast of Glandorf and then he moved to Pleasant township, where he lived the rest of his life. About two years before his death, he bought a home in Glandorf, improved it, but persistently said he would never get to live there. He did not. He died on the farm, February 19, 1905, at the age of seventy-two. Since his death, his widow has lived in the home in Glandorf.

On the day after John D. Buescher and wife were married, they moved to the farm, which he has farmed since, where they now live and where his father had been reared. His house was new then, but he has since added to it and remodeled it until now it is very large and commodious. In 1894, he built a splendid barn with a slate roof, the name of the owner and the date of its erection being shown by the color of the slate.

In 1904, he engaged in the hardware business in Kalida, which he continued for only six months. Although the business was successful, he found that he could not conduct it and the farm also, so he gave up the business and stayed on the farm.

In April, 1910, Mr. Buescher moved to Lima and engaged in the glove manufacturing business, being in that business about two years, but, as a result of causes over which he had no control, he lost heavily. He followed the carpenter trade in Lima for a time. After three years off the farm he moved back and has lived there since that time.

John D. and Jane Maria (Hoffman) Buescher are the parents of five children, John Henry, Frederick Albert, Catherine Luella, Louis Joseph and Mary Hildegard. John Henry married Helen Krathwohl and lives at Ft.

Wayne, Indiana. They have two children, Lewis Henry and Joseph Christian. He is employed in the office of the Domestic Coal Company of Fort Wayne, and is a graduate of the Rensselaer College at Rensselaer, Indiana, and also of the International Business College at Fort Wayne; Frederick Albert graduated from the school at Glandorf and attended college at Rensselaer. While there he developed an unusual ability, both as a baseball and basket-ball player, and is well known in his own county and the counties surrounding. During the flood of 1913, Frederick Albert, then living in Lima, helped to organize a relief committee of young men in Lima and loaded a car with provisions and boats and brought them to Ottawa and did heroic work in rescuing and succoring those in distress; Catherine Luella attended the Glandorf schools and took five years in music. She is a talented musician. She graduated from the Ottawa Business College and for a time was head stenographer in the offices of Moskin Brothers at Lima; Louis Joseph died at the age of two years, and Mary Hildegard is attending high school at Ottawa.

Mr. and Mrs. Buescher live in a splendid brick house of two stories, neat, substantial and heated with steam and equipped with a private lighting plant until recently, when electricity was installed.

Mr. Buescher is an ardent adherent of the Democratic party. He and his family are devout members of the Catholic church at Glandorf.

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### HENRY EDGAR REEDER.

The life history of Henry Edgar Reeder is closely identified with the agricultural history of Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, which has long been his home. His life has been one of untiring activity, and has been crowned with a degree of success commensurate with his worthy efforts. He belongs to the very highest type of progressive citizens, and none more than he deserves a fitting recognition among those whose enterprise and ability have awakened the admiration of the community where they live. In all the relations of life, family, church and in the civic life of the community, he has displayed a consistent Christian spirit, and his natural worth has endeared him to all classes of people. His integrity and fidelity have been manifested in every relation, and he is today one of the leading farmers of Ottawa township.

Henry Edgar Reeder was born on August 11, 1875, in Paulding county, Ohio. He is a son of Wesley Clark and Sarah Ann (Pease) Reeder. Wesley Clark Reeder was born in northwestern Ohio, probably Van Wert county,



and was a son of Joseph Reeder and wife, who came from Pennsylvania in an early day and who were of high German ancestry. Sarah Ann Pease was born near Grover Hill, Paulding county, Ohio. Mr. Reeder's parents lived near Grover Hill after their marriage, and when Henry Edgar was an infant his mother died. He was the only child of this marriage, and his father afterward married Mary Jane Stover, and lived a few years in Allen county, after which he moved to Liberty township, Putnam county, where he lived the remainder of his life. He was a good carpenter and worked at this trade most of his life. He was also engaged somewhat in farming. His death occurred in December, 1912.

Henry Edgar Reeder lived at home until his marriage on November 19, 1898, to Elmira Guyton. She was born in the northwestern part of Ottawa township, and was a daughter of William and Mary (Burkhart) Guyton. After his marriage Mr. Reeder began farming in Greensburg township, following this occupation until about ten years ago, when he moved to his present home on the Defiance road northwest of Ottawa, at the west line of Ottawa township. Mr. and Mrs. Reeder have one hundred and four acres of land, which is well improved and highly productive. They have one daughter, Elizabeth, born on July 10, 1900. The family are earnest and devout members of the United Brethren church, and contribute liberally of their means to its support.

Mrs. Reeder's father, William Guyton, was born in Maryland and came to Putnam county in 1837 with his parents, Vincent and Anna (Davis) Guyton. They located in the northwestern part of Ottawa township in the early days, having begun life in the dense forest in a log cabin home. William Guyton's wife, who before her marriage was Mary Burkhart, was born in Holmes county, Ohio, and came, about 1840, with her parents, John and Magdalena (Harder) Burkhart, to this county. After the marriage of William Guyton he and his wife made their home where Mr. and Mrs. Reeder now live. They were well-known people in this community. Mrs. Reeder is one of six children: Angeline, the wife of Solomon Myers; Orlando, of Ottawa township; Mary Ann, the widow of George Werth; Elizabeth, the wife of Jacob Prowant; one who died in infancy, and Mrs. Reeder. William Guyton died in 1899, while his widow survived him until 1907.

Mrs. Reeder's grandfather, Vincent Guyton, entered the land from the government, and conducted a country tavern on the Defiance road, just east of the line between Ottawa and Greensburg townships. This property has never been owned by any one outside the family. After the death of Vincent Guyton, it was owned by his son, and is now owned by his granddaughter, Mrs. Reeder.

## BERNARD J. LAMMERS.

In this century, when every modern device for farming is attainable, and when success depends, for the most part, on the wise management of the farm, it is hard to realize the handicap of the farmer of the last century, when farming implements were so crude and so much depended upon mere manual labor. But these early farmers were willing to toil incessantly for success. One of the most successful farmers of this period, in Ottawa township, Putnam county, was the late Bernard J. Lammers, who was born on April 29, 1839, in Bochhold, Westphalia, Germany, and who died in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, July 1, 1914.

Bernard Lammers was the son of Bernard Lammers and wife. At the age of eighteen he came to America and here joined his brother, Henry, who lived and died on the northern edge of Ottawa township, Putnam county, where the lad worked out until he was married.

When about twenty-four years old he married Theresa Recker. She was born in Glandorf and grew up south of that place, where her parents were early settlers. Before his marriage Bernard Lammers had bought forty acres, and after which time he made his home there and spent the rest of his life in the middle of the north half of section 2 of Ottawa township. His land was all wild wood, dense thickets and ponds, when he came in possession of it, but he cleared and improved it.

Two children were born to his first marriage, Henry J. and Katie. Katie married Theodore Meyer and lives in Toledo, and Henry J. lives in Liberty township near the old home. The mother of these two children died in October, 1870.

In April, 1871, Mr. Lammers married Mary Verhoff, who was born at Glandorf, the daughter of Francis and Ann (Kremer) Verhoff. Francis Verhoff was born in Prussia and while a boy came to America, but his parents spent all of their days in the old country. In this country Francis Verhoff learned the blacksmith trade, at Maumee, and later came to Glandorf, where he married Anna Kremer. She was born in Prussia, the daughter of Theodore Kremer and wife, and came to America with her parents, who located on a farm near Glandorf. After his marriage Mr. Verhoff continued blacksmithing for many years and also engaged in farming.

After the second marriage of Bernard Lammers he bought more land until he owned one hundred and twenty acres, where he built a nice big house, with handsome cedar trees around it, in Ottawa township. Here he lived

until his death. To his second union were born seven children, of whom three died in infancy. The four living children are Frank J., Mary, Theresa and J. Bernard. Frank J., who married Katie Weis, lives on a farm in the southern part of Liberty township and has four children, Waldo, Raymond, Luella and Gilbert; Mary, who married Frank Drerup, lives in Texas and has a family of children; Theresa, who married August Meyer, lives at Sheppard, Michigan, and has five children, Albert, Ida, Alphonse, Raymond and Florence. J. Bernard, the youngest son, was born on November 22, 1874, and is now farming the home place. He married Lucy Weis and has two children, Clara and Urban.

The late Bernard Lammers was a man who loved his home and family exceedingly, and farming, his vocation in life, was always a great delight to him. The Lammers family are highly respected residents of Ottawa township and interested in every good work which concerns the public. They are devout members of the Catholic church at New Cleveland.

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### JOHN KLAUSING.

The biographies of successful men are instructive as guides and incentive to those whose careers are yet to be made. The examples they furnish of patient purpose and consecutive endeavor, strongly illustrate what is the power of each to accomplish. John Klausing is a conspicuous example of one who has lived to good purpose and who has achieved a definite degree of success as a farmer and stockman. He is a man well known in the community where he resides and a man who is universally respected for his many good qualities.

John Klausing was born in 1847, in Cincinnati, the son of Henry and Gertrude (Uphaus) Klausing, the former of whom was born in Hanover, Germany. Henry Klausing was married in Hanover, Germany, to Gertrude Uphaus, about seventy-five years ago, they moved to America, landing at Baltimore, from which place they came to Cincinnati in wagons drawn by six horses. The men walked beside the wagon on the overland journey and the party camped along the way at various points. In the spring of 1860, they moved to Ottawa. Henry Klausing was a blacksmith, but after arriving in Putnam county, he purchased a farm and lived upon it for three years. He then purchased a blacksmith shop at Glandorf, where he lived until his death. He died on March 28, 1880, at the age of sixty-seven.

John Klausing lived with his father until he was about seventeen years old and learned the carpenter trade and worked at it for about four years.

John Klausing was married on January 18, 1871, to Mary Magdalene Leopold, who was born in Glandorf on October 16, 1849, the daughter of Bernard and Elizabeth (Siemer) Leopold, the sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.

After Mr. Klausing's marriage, he followed teaming and, subsequently, took a contract for building the first gravel road at Glandorf. He also farmed a part of the time. About twelve years after his marriage, he moved to a farm of seventy-seven acres inherited by Mrs. Klausing, located two and one-half miles northeast of Ottawa. They have lived on this farm since that time. Mr. Klausing now owns about two hundred acres of land.

To John and Mary Magdalene (Leopold) Klausing ten children have been born, William, Frank, Joseph, Henrietta, Elizabeth, Henry, Philomena, Elida, Frances and Theresia. William married Frances Kihm, of Leipsic, and has a harness store in Ottawa; Frank married Frances Bohr and lives on the farm next to his father. He and his wife have four children, Alfred, Cletus, John and Louise; the sketch of Joseph is given on another page of this volume; Henrietta is the wife of John Bohr and lives two miles north of her father. They have six children, Alphonse, Joseph, Frank, William, Gertrude and Louise; Elizabeth is the wife of Ben Klausing, who is very distantly related to her by blood kinship, and they live near Delphos. They are the parents of three children, Carle, Frank and Bernard; Henry married Katie Schmenk and lives between Leipsic and Belmore. They are the parents of four children, Clarence, Leonard, Richard and Dorothy. Leonard and Richard, aged fourteen months and two years and two months, respectively, were killed while playing on the trolley line in front of Mr. Klausing's home, June 13, 1913; Philomena is the wife of Joe Clements and lives at Delphos. They have five children: Frank, Magdalena, Henrietta, Frances and Gilbert; Elida is the wife of Ben Kruse and lives one mile east of her father's home. They have two daughters, Mildred and Elizabeth; Francis is the wife of Frank Kruse and has one daughter, Agnes. They live about one mile north of Ottawa, and Theresa is the wife of Edward Lammers and lives in the southern part of Liberty township.

John Klausing has been prominent in politics in Ottawa township for many years. He served as school director for eighteen years and then refused to accept the position any longer. For a time he was trustee of Ottawa township, and, still later, was assessor for a period of nine years. The Klausing family are all members of the Catholic church at Ottawa and are interested

in its many activities. Mr. and Mrs. Klausing have lived to see their family grow up and marry and to become useful members of society. In their declining years, they have the satisfaction of knowing that they have lived to good purpose, and that they have reared a family who respect them, and they are honored in return by the people in the neighborhoods where each live.

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### HENRY HALKER.

Germany has furnished thousands of good citizens to the state of Ohio, and Putnam county, especially, has been fortunate to count these people as a part of her body politic. The descendants of the early German settlers of Ohio, are characterized by the same thrift and economy which made their fathers the leading farmers and business men of the various communities in which they settled. Henry Halker, one of the leading farmers and stock men of Ottawa township, Putnam county, is a worthy son of one of its early German settlers, and during his life of more than forty years in the county, he has so conducted himself as to win the universal commendation of his fellow citizens.

Henry Halker was born on September 20, 1869, south of Glandorf, where he now lives. He is a son of William and Louise (Vogeding) Halker, the former of whom was born in Glandorf, Hanover, Germany, in 1818. He came to America at the age of twenty-one and lived first at Cincinnati. He was married in that city to Louise Vogeding, who was born in Germany, and after her marriage lived for a time in Cincinnati, and then came to Glandorf, Putnam county, and settled on a farm in Ottawa township, where they lived until death. For further particulars, the reader is referred to sketch of George Halker, subject's brother, found elsewhere in this volume.

Henry Halker grew to manhood on the farm where he now lives, south of Glandorf, assisting his father with the farm work and thus learning early in life all the fundamental principles of agriculture.

In October, 1900, Mr. Halker was married to Minnie Recker, who was born about one mile south of Glandorf, and who is a daughter of John Henry and Pauline (Kahle) Recker, the former a native of this county, born south of Glandorf, in Ottawa township, in a log cabin, and was a son of Nicholas Recker and wife, who were early pioneers of the county. Pauline Kahle is a sister of Ignatius Kahle, whose sketch, found elsewhere in this volume, tells of her family history. When Mrs. Halker was seven years old

the family moved to a farm east of Kalida, where her parents lived the remainder of their lives.

After his marriage, Mr. Halker, the subject of this review, moved to the farm upon which they now live and have since remained. Mr. Halker has been a life-long farmer, owning one hundred and twenty acres of well-improved land and is a progressive citizen in every respect, kind and loving to his family, and honored and respected in turn by them.

Henry and Minnie (Recker) Halker are the parents of three children: George, Mary and Loretta, all of whom are living at home. The Halker family are all faithful and earnest members of the Catholic church at Glandorf. Henry Halker is a man who has devoted his life energies to the happiness and comfort of his family. He is public-spirited in the best sense of the word, but his first consideration has always been his wife and children, to whom he is intensely devoted.

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#### FRANK WILLIAM WALLEN.

One of the interesting histories which might be written concerning the settlement of Jennings township, is that dealing with the period when that part of the country was a wilderness. Then it was that many young couples migrated from the east and south, and started their own family firesides, sometimes too near the camp fires of their Indian neighbors. Among those who acquired land from the government were the ancestors of Frank William Wallen, who still lives where his forefathers settled when they came from Kentucky, at a very early date. Forty-seven out of the eighty-nine acres, which he owns, have been in the Wallen family ever since they were obtained from the government. So that would constitute Mr. Wallen what we call "an old settler," a term unknown in the old country.

Frank William Wallen was born in Jennings township on December 7, 1843. He is the son of Isaac and Catherine (Nottoff) Wallen, the former of whom came from England to the United States, and at first settled in Kentucky, then migrated to the township which is still his home. All this happened when Isaac was a very small boy, his parents having been married in Putnam county. Two children were born to Isaac and Catherine Wallen, one of whom died in infancy, the other becoming of such prominence as to have his life merit a biographical sketch in this volume. After the death of Mrs. Wallen, mother of Frank W. Wallen, in 1843, the father married for

his second wife, Miss Margaret Keller. To them were born two children: Daniel, who is now deceased, and Lucretia, who became the wife of Robert Seibert, of Lima. The father of Mr. Wallen lived until 1849, having followed the occupation of farming all of his life. He was a faithful member of the United Brethren church.

Mrs. Wallen then married a Doctor Carter, and their family consisted of four children, two of whom are deceased. Moses is now living in Putnam county, and Mary became the wife of Benjamin Seibert. The mother died about 1904, and Doctor Carter passed away in 1911.

Although the mother of Frank W. Wallen married a Protestant, she herself was a Catholic. She was born in Germany, and came to this country with her parents. Her father was Frank William Nottoff, and when he arrived in this country, he settled first in Glandorf. Later, he moved to Ft. Jennings and lived there the remainder of his days. Her mother's name was also Katherine. Three children, besides Katherine, made up this family. They were Barney, Jasper and Theodore, Katherine being the youngest. After the death of Mrs. Wallen's grandfather, her grandmother married Joseph Meyer. The son born to them, Joseph, served three months in the war.

At the age of twenty-six, that is, in 1869, Mr. Wallen was united in marriage to Miss Mary K. Slottman, in the month of November. Theirs was the good fortune to have the regulation large family so common in those early days, for to them were born eleven children, ten of whom are living today, Frank lives in Jennings township; Katherine married Henry Kritmeyer, and moved to Monterery township; William makes his present home in Bentley Bay county, Michigan; Amelia, who became the wife of John Weighart, lives in Jennings township; Joseph lives in Rushmore, Ohio; Anna, the wife of John Dahling, is living in Delphos, Ohio; Sophia died at the age of twenty-two; Minnie, the wife of Edward Shoemaker also makes her home in Bentley Bay county, Michigan; Caroline, wife of William Dahling, lives in Jennings township; Barnard, who was born on March 12, 1895, and his brother, August, have charge of the farm, and August, the youngest member of the family, was born on June 30, 1897.

The farm which is the present home of Mr. Wallen and his two sons, is located in section 34, northeast of Ft. Jennings, about two and one-half miles. Like their more enterprising neighbors, these energetic farmers have had a high ideal for their work, and this ideal has been to raise farm products of a high grade and stock that should reflect credit upon the entire neighborhood in which their farm is situated. And this they have succeeded in doing. Their

land is all improved, which, considering the fact that it was a wilderness once, speaks well for the thrift and industry of the Wallen family.

In religious matters, the family seems to have followed the example of Mr. Wallen's mother, for all are members in good standing of the Catholic church, their names having been for many years enrolled among the membership of the Ft. Jennings Catholic church. Mr. Wallen is a Democrat. Although he may not have been prominent as an office seeker or office holder, his stanch Democratic principles have had their influence among his neighbors and associates, and when an event or circumstance arises where justice and right are involved, his voice is among the loudest in defense of what he believes to be the true course of action.

In converting a desert land into places fit for habitation, the ancestors of Mr. Wallen were indeed benefactors, and in continuing their praiseworthy work, he and his children have passed on to others the benefits of their labors and industry. Of such may it not be said "They found a dry, barren waste, they left a garden, a fit habitation for the sons of men."

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#### CORNELIUS HUYSMAN.

The subject of this review is a representative agriculturist of Putnam county and is known as one of the alert, progressive farmers of this part of the county. In his efforts he has not permitted himself to follow in the rut in a blind way, but has given considerable thought and done much experimenting, and, therefore, his returns from his enterprising methods have reached a maximum, while at the same time he has directed his course to command the regard and confidence of the people of the community in which he lives. He is referred to as a man entirely worthy of the respect of his fellow men, and has ever advocated those things which tend to promote the welfare of the public.

Cornelius Huysman was born in Monterey township, this county, on April 21, 1850, and is the son of Henry and Nellie (Kortier) Huysman. Henry Huysman was born on October 11, 1811, in Holland, and it was there that he was married. To their union were born nine children: Wilhelmena, died at the age of twenty years; Mary, died at the age of fifty-four years; Aaron, now living in Monterey township, this county; Walter, died in Monterey township in 1892; Henry, died on board ship, age two months; Nellie, married S. Hunsaker, who lives in Allen county, Ohio; Henreche, deceased



wife of Louis Peters; Cornelius, the subject of this review, and Henry, who died in 1900; the last three of whom were born in America.

It was in the fall of 1847 that Henry Huysman, together with his wife and five children previously born to them, left Holland and crossed the Atlantic for the purpose of making their future home in the United States. On their arrival in the city of New York they went by rail to the city of Toledo, Ohio, where they boarded one of the boats of the Miami & Erie Canal Company, and traveled via the canal to the town of Delphos, and settled on a farm in Monterey township, Putnam county. He was a miller by trade, but decided to carry on general farming in this country, which he continued to do until the time of his death, 1894, at which time he arrived in the eighty-second year of his age. His wife passed away just a year previous to his death.

Cornelius Huysman received his early education in the township schools and followed in the footsteps of his father by learning all about farming, and he has continued to farm all his life. In 1873, he was married to Miss Lydia Semer, and to them were born nine children, as follow: Nellie, who lives in Van Wert; Cassia, wife of Fred. Spangler, living in Hillview, Province of Ontario, Canada; Anna, wife of Fred. Rice, and living in Van Wert county; Drickie, wife of Thomas Alsbaugh, living in Van West county; John, who resides in Van Wert county; Katie, wife of John Buetner, who lives in Allen county; Emma, deceased at the age of sixteen years; Allen, who lives in Ottoville, this county, and conducts an automobile garage. The mother of these children died on January 21, 1889.

Cornelius Huysman was married a second time, this time to the widow of Edward Semer, her maiden name having been Maria Spangler, and she lived until the year 1889. No children were born to the second marriage. Mr. Huysman's present and third wife was Maria, a daughter of Lemech and Sarah Spangler, and was born in Allen county on August 28, 1863. Her father was a native of Pennsylvania, and her mother a native of Fairfield county, Ohio. The father was a farmer in Van Wert county, to which place he moved in 1866, and where he died in 1881. Her mother died in 1885.

Mr. Huysman has devoted nearly all of his life to improving the two hundred acres of land which he owns in this township and besides cutting considerable timber and carrying on general farming, makes a specialty of raising high-grade live stock. He is considered a good judge of stock in this locality and takes great pride in his herds.

A strong advocate of the principles of the Republican party, and, though not active in party matters, the influence of Cornelius Huysman along these lines is felt in the community where he lives. His religious affiliations are

with the Christian Union church, to which denomination he contributes according to his means. Personally, he is a gentleman in every sense of the word, worthy of the confidence of his fellowmen and he is held in the highest esteem by all who know him.

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### SHELBY HARRIS.

In the respect that is accorded to men who have bought their own way to success through unfavorable circumstances, we find an unconscious recognition of the intrinsic worth of character which cannot only endure so rough a test, but gain new strength through difficulties. The gentleman to whom the biographer now calls the reader's attention, was not favored by inherited wealth or the assistance of influential friends, but, in spite of this, by perseverance and wise economy, he has attained a comfortable station in life and has made his influence for good felt in this community where he long maintained his home. Because of his honorable career, it is eminently fitting that he should be accorded a place in the pages of this volume.

Shelby Harris was born on December 14, 1858, in Jennings township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of John and Mary (Huffman) Harris, both of whom were natives of Connecticut, who came to Ohio in pioneer times and settled near Cincinnati. Later, they moved to Putnam county, and settled in Jennings township. Seven children were born to them: William H., Marcus and Mary E., all deceased; George, who lives at Findlay; Daniel, who lives at Muncie, Indiana; Shelby, the subject of this sketch, and Lavina, the wife of George Evans, of Marion, this state. The father of these children, John Harris, died in 1860, and his wife was married, a second time, to Moses Radcliff. To this union, three children were born: M. O.; Minerva, the wife of Henry Sterns; and Granvil, who lives near Mandville, Ohio. Moses Radcliff was a carpenter by trade and was killed about twenty years ago by a saw-mill explosion in Montana. The mother died in 1909.

Shelby Harris received his education in the district schools of Jennings township and performed the usual labor which falls to the lot of the average boy who lives in an agricultural township.

On April 4, 1881, Shelby Harris was married to Anna Stearns, the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Cronshiner) Stearns, both of whom were natives of Germany, and who came to the United States when they were young. They were married in Ohio and to this union, eleven children were

born, five of whom died in infancy. Those who survived were: Mary, who lives in Leipsic; Anna, the wife of Mr. Harris; Godfrey, who lives in Jackson township; Henry and Philip, both of whom also live in Jackson township; and Frances, the wife of James Claypool, of Monterey township. Mrs. John Stearns died in December, 1914, and John Stearns is still living, being eighty-four years old.

Shelby Harris followed farming and teaming for a number of years. He owns a greenhouse and has been in the floral business for the past fifteen years, except for the past few years, when he has given up the hothouse work and is now engaged in general truck and fruit gardening. Mr. Harris owns a small farm, a well-improved, modern house and other good buildings. He is a man who is highly respected in this community, and has a comfortable income.

Shelby Harris is a Democrat, has served as township trustee of Jennings township for four years, and as president of the school board for the the past eight years. He has also been treasurer of the Ft. Jennings Mutual Telephone Company and the Ft. Jennings Cemetery Association, since 1908. Mrs. Harris was reared a Lutheran, but after her marriage, became a member of the United Brethren church at Pleasant Valley. Later, because there was no United Brethren church in the community where Mr. and Mrs. Harris lived, both have become members of the Lutheran church.

Mr. and Mrs. Shelby Harris and family are well known in Jennings township and are popular among all classes of people. They are highly respected citizens and earnestly devoted to the welfare of their family and to their neighbors.

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#### JOHN F. GEORGE, M. D.

Professional success results from merit. Frequently in commercial life, one may come into possession of a lucrative business through inheritance or gift, but in what are known as the learned professions, advancement is gained only through painstaking and long-continued effort. Prestige in the art of healing is the outcome of strong mentality, close application, thorough mastery of its great underlying principles and the ability to apply theory to practice in the treatment of disease. Intellectual training, true professional knowledge and the possession and utilization of the qualities and attributes essential to success have made Dr. John F. George eminent in his chosen calling, and he stands today among the skilled and enterprising physicians of Putnam

county, Ohio. He is now engaged in the practice of his profession at Ft. Jennings, and for many years, has enjoyed a large and lucrative practice.

Dr. John F. George was born on July 13, 1867, in New Orleans, Louisiana. He is the son of Peter and Elizabeth (Zeigler) George, the latter of whom was a native of New Orleans and the former a native of Germany. Peter George came with his brother, when he was about fifteen years old, to America, and his brother was about twenty. He learned the baker trade, after coming to America, and settled, eventually, in Philadelphia, where he worked at that trade. He lived in Philadelphia for a time, and, subsequently, came to Columbus, where he also followed his trade. From Columbus, he returned to New Orleans, and was there married on November 12, 1861. He and his wife had eight children, six of whom are now living, Elizabeth, the wife of Joseph Geise, of near Delphos; Mary, the wife of F. J. Schwartzengraber, of Delphos; Dr. John F., the subject of this sketch; Emma, who lives in Delphos with her mother; Celestina, who is unmarried and lives in South Bend, Indiana; Matilda, the wife of Nicholas Schilling, of South Bend; Henry, who died at the age of thirty, and Carrie, who died at the age of twenty-six. Peter George lived in New Orleans after his marriage for a time and followed his trade. Subsequently, he came North and settled in Delphos, and lived there for thirty-three years, or until his death, April 21, 1913. He was engaged in the grocery business during the last years of his life, retiring from that, however, about 1908. His wife is still living in Delphos.

Dr. John F. George received a good public school education in Delphos. He graduated from the Delphos high school with the class of 1885, and then took a commercial course in Dayton, Ohio. He also pursued his business education in Cincinnati, and then clerked in a store for about two years in Delphos. Finally he took up the study of medicine with Drs. Williamson and Reul and was with them for about eighteen months, when he went to Taylor University, near Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and became a student in the medical department. He was graduated from this university, March 8, 1892, and during the following summer, opened an office in Wapakoneta, Ohio. He practiced here for about one year and moved from here to Ft. Jennings in 1893. He practiced at Ft. Jennings for seventeen years and then quit the practice for two years, during which time he traveled for a drug firm. He finally returned to Ft. Jennings and took up his practice again, and now has a large and flourishing practice. He is one of the most highly attested physicians in this section of the country.

Dr. John F. George was married on September 23, 1896, to Mary K.

Hedrick, whose parents are both living in Jackson township. He is a member of the American Medical Association, the Ohio State Medical Association, the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association and the Putnam County Medical Society. He is a man who ranks high in his profession, who has always observed closely the ethics of his profession and who enjoys the confidence of all of his patients.

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### JOSEPH I. G. MAAG.

Descended from honored ancestry and himself numbered among the successful farmers and leading citizens of Putnam county, Joseph I. G. Maag is entitled to specific recognition in the annals of the locality in which he has been so long identified, and where he has strengthened his hold on the hearts of the people with whom he has been associated. There is not a man in the community who enjoys a larger circle of warm friends and acquaintances, who esteem him because of his high character and business ability.

Joseph I. G. Maag was born in Pleasant township, this county, on July 4, 1879, and is the son of William and Bernadina (Kahle) Maag, whose life record may be found elsewhere in this work under the caption John C. Maag.

Spending his boyhood days under the parental roof of the homestead farm, Joseph I. G. Maag received his early education in the neighboring township schools, and remained with his parents until the age of twenty-one years. On November 14, 1899, he was married to Elizabeth Erhart, daughter of Henry and Bernadina (Barlager) Erhart, after which event he purchased eighty acres from his father for the purpose of establishing a home for himself. The same year he was married he began the erection of his present home and the necessary farm buildings and continued to carry on the business of general farming and stock raising. The original eighty acres was clear with the exception of about twenty acres in standing timber and, in 1912, he purchased twenty acres adjoining, which gives him a total of one hundred acres, the greater portion of which may be put under cultivation at will. Mr. Maag has always been considered a conscientious, industrious and painstaking worker and the splendid appearance of his holdings today indicate the thrift and unceasing energy which he has displayed throughout his life to make a success of agriculture and stock raising. To Joseph I. G. and Elizabeth (Erhart) Maag have been born seven children, named in the order of their birth, as follow: Edwin; Alfred, deceased in infancy; Frankie and Mamie (twins); Rudolph and Adolph (twins), and Adelia Bernadina.

Joseph I. G. Maag has always been identified with the Democratic party, but has never aspired to office and does not actively engage in politics. The entire family are members of the Catholic church in Columbus Grove, to which they contribute liberally in accordance with their means. Personally, Mr. Maag is a man who makes friends easily and knows how to keep them. His sterling qualities for honorable and upright dealings with his fellow men have won for him a permanent place in the esteem of all who know him.

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### ALFRED A. STARKWEATHER.

This utilitarian age has been especially productive of men of action, clear-brained men of higher resolves and nobler purposes, who give character and stability to the communities honored by their citizenships and whose influence and leadership are keenly discernible in the various enterprises that have added so greatly to the high reputation which Putnam county enjoys among her sister counties of the great commonwealth of Ohio. Conspicuous in this class of men, who reside in Putnam county, is Alfred A. Starkweather, the well-known proprietor of Columbus Grove's large implement store. Mr. Starkweather has built up a large and lucrative business in buggies, implements, threshing machines, gas engines, wire fence, etc., and his business success is due largely to the reputation he has gained for honesty and square dealing.

Alfred A. Starkweather was born on April 20, 1862, at Hillsdale, Michigan, the son of Horace and Mary Jane (Hoisington) Starkweather. Horace Starkweather was born on July 16, 1802, in Onandaga county, New York. He was the son of Thomas Starkweather and wife, both of whom are natives of New England. They came to New York state about 1798, where he was a farmer, and, like the typical New Englander, was a hard-working, industrious man. At this time Rochester was in its infancy and Thomas Starkweather drove forty miles to mill at that place. His son, Horace, the father of Alfred A., grew to manhood in New York state and helped his father clear the old homestead. It is related that when but a small boy he drove an ox team in assisting his father on the farm. Horace Starkweather was married at the age of twenty-four in 1826, after which they moved to Hillsdale county, Michigan, where he engaged in farming. He remained in this county until his death. About 1849 his wife died. She was the mother of seven children: Ira M., who is an attorney and became judge of the circuit court at Flowerville, Michigan; Jonathan H., Eugene,

Horace, Dick and two daughters. Jonathan, Horace and Eugene were soldiers in the Civil War, Eugene and Horace being killed in that struggle. Shortly after his wife's death, Horace Starkweather was married to Mary Jane Hoisington, the daughter of Anson and Elizabeth Hoisington, who were pioneers in the state of Michigan. To this union were born six children: Almeda, deceased, who was the wife of V. F. Musser; Almira, deceased, who was the wife of L. H. Parker; Alva, who married Elizabeth Ord; Elvira A., the wife of W. H. Nuffer, of Los Angeles, California; Judson H., who married Margaret Stone, and Alfred A., the subject of this sketch. The mother of these children died on April 16, 1871, when Alfred A. was nine years of age. The father died at Hillsdale, Michigan, December 16, 1887, at the age of eighty-five.

Alfred A. Starkweather remained at home, attending the common school and helping his father on the farm near Hillsdale, Michigan, until he was twenty-five years old. After his father died he came to Lima, Ohio, where, in 1891, he was married to Carrie Beiler, the daughter of Rev. John and Margaret Beiler, both deceased. Rev. John Beiler was a minister in the Methodist church.

After his marriage Mr. Starkweather took a business course and also studied telegraphy at Ada University, after which time he became a telegrapher for about two and one-half years for the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad, and then moved to Columbus Grove, where he entered the buggy and implement business. He has continued this business without interruption for about nineteen years, or since the early spring of 1896. Just before entered the present business Mr. Starkweather was engaged for two years in the butcher business.

His wife died on August 26, 1896. She was a good Christian woman and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church since her childhood. She was a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, and before her marriage had taught in the public schools of Lima.

Mr. Starkweather was married, a second time, on August 31, 1898, to Mary L. Doty, the daughter of Cornelius and Casander (Guyer) Doty, who were natives of Ohio, but the daughter, however, was born in Illinois. She is a graduate of the common and high schools of Columbus Grove and took several terms of normal work at Ada University, after which she taught in the common and high schools of Columbus Grove for several years.

To Mr. Starkweather, by his second marriage, one daughter has been born, Lucille M., who is now at school.

Alfred A. Starkweather is one of the most prominent business men in this section of Ohio. He is the proprietor of a large mercantile establishment, which has a splendid patronage. He not only keeps on hand and for sale every commodity that is used on the farm, but he has built up a good trade in the sale of automobiles.

Mr. Starkweather is a Democrat and has always been active in the councils of his party, having served as precinct committeeman and later as a member of the county executive committee. He is a member of the Royal Arcanum, Columbus Grove Lodge No. 376, Knights of Pythias, and the Modern Woodmen of America. Alfred A. Starkweather is one of the most prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is treasurer of the church, president of the board of trustees and district steward. For his prominence as a business man and his popularity as a citizen, he is entitled to rank as a representative citizen of Putnam county.

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#### LESTER DUNLAP.

Another of the prominent farmers whose energy, industry and altruism have made Putnam county a good place in which to live, is Lester Dunlap, of Jennings township. It might be said that he only followed the line of least resistance in giving his attention to the cultivation of the soil, his father having been a farmer, if it were not also true that when the moment of supreme self-sacrifice came, and his country needed him, he responded without a thought as to consequences. Engrossed as he was in farming, personal interests gave way when his country called, and he turned his back upon home and loved ones to face what fate had in store for him—honor or death—he knew not which. It is such lives as these that quicken and inspire our own, and too few, indeed, are the records of those thousands, who, though living in comparative obscurity, possess the nobility of character which, in more stirring times, would crown them heroes.

Lester Dunlap, since early manhood, has been either a farmer or a soldier. Born on May 16, 1842, the son of Robert and Louisa (Spain) Dunlap, who were living at the time in Union county, Ohio, he went with his parents to live in Putnam county in 1861. The father, a Pennsylvanian by birth, married Miss Louisa Spain, a Virginian, and they began life together on August 8, 1840, later coming west to Guernsey county.

Robert Dunlap, father of the subject, whose life is here presented,



was born in Pennsylvania, on October 29, 1811. After residence in Guernsey and Union counties, and in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, this family, now numbering five, removed to Jennings township, in the latter county, in 1865, and here they remained on their own farm until the death of both parents. Robert Dunlap passed away at the age of seventy-five, and his wife lived to be eighty-one years of age. The mother of Lester Dunlap began her career on earth, March 8, 1815, near Petersburg, Virginia.

The three children rounding out the happy family life of Mr. and Mrs. Dunlap were: Sibyl, Lester and Almedia J.

Although in need of the services of his son on the farm, Mr. Dunlap believed in education, and gave him advantage of all that the common schools afforded at that time. After leaving school, Lester Dunlap continued in the vocation which his father had taught him, and, in December, 1864, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Young, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Young, who settled on a Putnam county farm, about 1858. The children of Mr. Dunlap, by his first marriage, were: William E. Dunlap, who is now a resident of Ft. Wayne, Indiana; Jeannette, wife of Lewis Gordon, of Lima; and Rachel, who married John Cowan and lives in Ottawa.

Mrs. Dunlap died on April 28, 1871, and in July, 1873, he married, for his second wife, Miss Rebecca Huffer. The home thus established became the birthplace of eight children, all of whom are living. These are as follow: Anna, wife of E. W. Wells, of Rushmore; Robert, living in Seattle, Washington; George, who lives at home; Mary, who became the wife of Charles Friend, the latter of whom died on April 8, 1914, in her second year at their home in Delphos; Lewis, residing in Jennings township; Marion C. and Charles, who live at home, and Hulda, who is now Mrs. G. C. Ford and whose home is near Paynesville, Ohio.

Mr. Dunlap's farm, in section 15, consists of one hundred and nineteen acres of well-improved land, for its owner has kept abreast with the times in the matter of improvements and the modern machinery which they require. While he retired from active participation in agricultural pursuits, in 1911, he still takes a deep interest in all that pertains to the land and his home. His sons, however, have charge of the farming interests and activities.

In 1864, when the call went out for men to join the army, Lester Dunlap enlisted under Capt. I. W. Patrick, in a regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war, a period of over four months. He was assigned to guard and patrol duty in Maryland and in the District of Columbia. He was honorably discharged at Camp Chase, Ohio, on August 27, 1864. He then returned to the farm, where he lived in happiness

and contentment until the death of his wife, who passed away on August 18, 1909.

Mr. Dunlap has been a life-long Republican, and has served his township as trustee, an office he has filled with credit to himself, as well as to the neighborhood which he honored. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Ruel Post No. 95, of Delphos, and no one is more patriotic or more enthusiastic when the war is discussed, or when questions of loyalty are involved. Old soldiers of the type of Lester Dunlap are an inspiration as long as they live and wherever they live. Although no active service may require a test of their loyalty, yet all with whom they come in contact, recognize that should their country's call be repeated, it would find the same ready response in the spirit of the aged as is found in their youth. The step of Mr. Dunlap may be a bit feeble, and the eyes a trifle dim, but the soul of the patriot is there, a soul aflame with the fire kindled at the altar of self-sacrifice when the life of the nation depended upon just such men.

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#### LAWRENCE V. BLUE.

The gentleman whose name forms the caption to this sketch belongs to that class of men who win the battle of life by sheer force of personality and determination, coupled with soundness of judgment and keen discrimination, and in whatever he has undertaken, he has shown himself to be a man of ability and honor, always ready to lend his aid in defending principles affecting the public good, and, though he has been but a few years in this community, yet he has established himself firmly in the hearts of the people and is generally known to be a man of sterling worth, conscientious and considerate, and entitled to the respect and admiration of his fellow men.

Lawrence V. Blue was born in Ayersville, Defiance county, Ohio, on December 20, 1887, and is the son of Dr. N. S. and Henrietta (Brechtbill) Blue. His father was born in Miami county, this state, where he received his early education and later went to medical college, where he studied the required number of years to finish the course and received his diploma as a medical graduate. He began his practice of medicine in Pettisville, Fulton county, Ohio, and after being there for a period of twelve years, he removed to Ayersville, Defiance county, where he continued the practice of his profession for thirteen years and died March 12, 1912. In 1886 he was married to Henrietta Brechtbill, and to them were born two children, Lawrence V. and

Helen, who was born December 7, 1891, and is now the wife of W. C. Imhoff, of Leipsic. Lawrence V. Blue's father was a member of the Knights of Pythias, of Wauseon, Ohio, also the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Free and Accepted Masons, of Defiance, also vice-president of the local medical society and a member of the State Medical Society. His wife survived him and is at present residing in Defiance.

Lawrence V. Blue received his early education in the public schools and later went to Defiance College, where he was a student for some time. After leaving the college from which he graduated with honors, he decided to complete a course in business training, and, therefore, went to the Ft. Wayne (Indiana) International Business College, where he made it a specialty to acquire a complete knowledge of auditing books. On January 11, 1913, he was married to Ethel M. Heater, a daughter of W. W. and Dora (Little) Heater, all natives of Defiance county, and where Mr. Heater is the superintendent of the county schools.

Remaining in the city of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, where he followed the business of auditing books, for a period of three years, it was here that Lawrence V. Blue opened up and conducted the "Alt Heidelberg" hotel, which he managed for two years. After this, he left for the state of New York, where he was engaged with a large lumber company, in Wanakena, as auditor of accounts. He remained with this company for about a year and returned to Defiance county at the time of his father's death, then, at a later date, came to Putnam county and started a general merchandising store in the town of Rushmore. This store was opened up for business on January 1, 1913, and for the past two years Lawrence V. has enjoyed a good business ever since. It is said that he carries such a varied stock of goods, that the demand for almost any article in dry goods, hardware and groceries can be supplied. To Lawrence V. and Ethel M. (Heater) Blue have been born one child, Mary Elizabeth, whose birthday occurred on November 21, 1914.

Mr. Blue is an active member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge of Delphos, Ohio, and is strongly identified with the Republican ranks and took a very aggressive part in politics in Defiance county before coming to this locality. Both Lawrence V. Blue and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of Rushmore, to which congregation they lend their support in accordance with their means. Personally, Lawrence V. Blue is a man whose friendship it pays to cultivate and he is noted throughout this region for his genial disposition and courtesy to all. He is a man of social tendencies, kind, obliging, unassuming and straight-forward and honorable in all the relations of life and is universally respected and popular.

## HENRY CALVELAGE.

The record of Henry Calvelage is that of a man who, by his own unaided efforts, has worked his way from a modest beginning to a position of influence in his community. His life has been one of unceasing industry and perseverance and the systematic and honorable methods he has followed have won for him the confidence of his fellow citizens, of Putnam county, whose interests he has ever had at heart and which he has always labored to promote.

Henry Calvelage was born in Jennings township, this county, on October 14, 1851, and is the son of George and Mary (Hackman) Calvelage, both of whom were born in Germany. The former came to this country when a very young man and made his first place of residence in the city of Baltimore, Maryland, where he was employed as a clerk in a store. He remained in Baltimore until the year 1834, when he decided to leave there and go to a state farther west, and selecting Ohio as a good place to make his future home, settled on a farm in Jennings township, Putnam county, where he engaged in and continued to farm until the time of his death, about the year 1885. His wife came to America with her parents when she was a very young girl, and they settled in Putnam county. It was here that she first met George Calvelage and was afterward married. To their union were born five children, August H., who resides in the city of Indianapolis, Indiana; Henry, the subject of this sketch; Barney, who lives on the old homestead place, and two children, who died in infancy. The mother survived the death of the father for five years and died in 1900.

Henry Calvelage received his early education in the neighboring township schools and remained under the parental roof until about the time of his marriage, which occurred on October 27, 1873, to Caroline Rekart, a daughter of Sigmund and Mary (Discher) Rekart, whose parents were also natives of Germany, and who immigrated to this country when Caroline was but a child. The father died some time ago and is survived by the wife and mother. To the union of Henry and Caroline (Rekart) have been born nine children, August, of Jackson township, this county; Otto B.; Joseph, who runs a blacksmith shop, which he owns in Ft. Jennings, this county, and who is also an engineer by trade; Alex, who died at the age of fourteen; Jacob; Walter P.; Grover H.; Dora and Edward J., all of whom live with the parents, except as otherwise stated. The home place consists of one hundred and sixty acres of fine farming land and which Henry Calvelage purchased outright some years ago, with an idea of making it an ideal farm, and by his constant attention to it, and by well-directed management, has made

himself worthy of the title, "successful man." A number of substantial improvements have been made to the place, including a modern barn and a commodious brick residence. Besides carrying on a general farming business, special attention is given to the raising of Polled Durham and Shorthorn cattle. In this line, Mr. Calvelage is very successful and finds that he can raise this class of stock at good profit.

Mr. and Mrs. Calvelage lead a rather quiet and unassuming life and are highly respected by all their neighbors and acquaintances for the honorable and praiseworthy lives they lead and for their strong moral convictions. Fraternally, Mr. Calvelage is a member of the Order of Eagles, Lodge No. 471, Delphos; he is an active supporter of the Democratic party, and has held the office of township trustee for a number of years. Besides his farming interests, Mr. Calvelage takes a deep interest in financial matters and is one of the stockholders in the Commercial Bank of Delphos, Ohio. Personally, he is a man of pleasant manners, genial disposition, and is well liked by everyone in the community.

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#### PIERCE DAVIS.

We who were born in America, have the path made so smooth for us that it is perhaps a little difficult to picture the pioneer struggles. Therefore, is the story of a young man interesting, in whom the desire for success is so strong that he can bid farewell to brothers and sisters, to friends and neighbors, and seek his way to an unknown land and a strange people.

So it was with Pierce Davis. He is surrounded by the family group of six brothers and sisters in the little town in Wales, waiting for the big and wonderful ship that is to take him to America, where, he is quite sure, there is life and fortune for all. Mr. Davis is now living in Putnam county and his present comfortable home and evident prosperity show, even to the practical mind, that dreams sometimes come true.

The fact that both of his parents were dead may have had something to do with the young adventurer leaving home, for from the time he was three years old, he was cared for by his father and brothers and sisters, for his mother, Elizabeth (Williams) Davis, passed away at that time. The father, Pierce Davis, Sr., lived until his namesake was twenty-four years of age, the latter having been born in 1842, and it was the year of his father's death when this son came to America. This was in the spring of 1866. The brothers and sisters, six in number, remained in Wales all of their lives.

Besides making the long journey from Wales, Mr. Davis has been somewhat of a traveler in the country of his adoption. Franklin county, Ohio, first attracted his attention when he became a resident of the United States, and here he remained for about a year, working in Columbus. Then he migrated to Putnam county, buying fifty-five acres in Sugar Creek township. These he worked hard to develop and improve for six years, at the end of which time his nomadic tastes, as well as the prospect of bettering himself, caused him to sell out and go to Kansas and Texas. He traveled about for some time in the agricultural districts, looking over the land with the intention of buying and making this section his future home. But like hundreds of others who have left Ohio to find permanent residence in other localities, he returned thoroughly contented to spend the remainder of his days in the Buckeye state. This explains the fact that one hundred and twenty acres of splendid farm land in the county, now under consideration are owned by Mr. Davis. Being of a progressive turn of mind, Mr. Davis has equipped his valuable property with modern improvements, including comfortable, well-planned buildings, scientific ditching facilities and up-to-date tiling. His personal equipment for these and similar activities is a common-school education which he received in Wales. Knowing the Welsh to be a thorough, painstaking people, it is safe to assume that the training he received in the country of his birth was the equivalent of a similar school period spent elsewhere.

Mr. Davis is an advocate of good roads and does not look to the township for assistance, but often has done the hauling and grading at his own expense.

It must not be supposed that all of these years comprised a solitary life for the man concerning whom this is written. Some time previous to 1873, he met Anna Roberts, for it was in that year that he became her husband, the marriage ceremony being performed in Putnam county. Like her husband, Mrs. Davis was born in Wales, in December, 1842, and had come to New York while still young. Later, she came West and lived in Columbus for a while, and then removed to Putnam county. Up to the time of her death, in August, 1897, Mrs. Davis was a prominent and well-beloved member of the Congregational church, and never tired of giving her time and her means toward the upbuilding of the church she loved.

Five children were born to Pierce and Anna (Roberts) Davis, and all are living. Evan P. lives in Rushmore; Walter, the second son, resides at home, and with his two younger brothers, Leonard A. and Edward, looks after the farm interests, and Jennie also has remained with her father.

Mr. Davis, politically speaking, is a Republican. He seems to be content to allow others to hold offices, while he expresses his political convictions through the ballot, nevertheless his opinion is often sought by those who appreciate the fact that, although not in public office, here is a man with decided convictions which are worthy of respect and consideration.

All of the members of this family, it is interesting to note, have always been affiliated with the church in which their mother worshipped. As the Congregational denomination is not found to be a strong church in rural communities, especially in the West, this incident offers evidence of the fact that both Mr. and Mrs. Davis chose always to do their own thinking, whether in matters pertaining to politics or religion, or in the other concerns of life. It may be for this reason that their home in section 14, of Jennings township, was known for its genial family life, its hospitality and its wholesome idealism.

It is not necessary, therefore, to add that in the neighborhood which was the home of the Davis family for so many years, they stood out among their associates as a little group whose lives it was well to emulate?

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#### ANTON HOEHN.

The free, out-of-door life of the farm has a decided tendency to foster and develop that independence of mind and self-reliance which characterizes true manhood and no truer blessing can befall a boy than to be brought up in close touch with nature in the healthful, life-inspiring labor of the fields. Anton Hoehn has followed his vocation as an agriculturist from his early youth, and today, is regarded a success in this line by his fellow citizens. The community in which he lives is indebted to him for the good influence he has wielded and for his willingness to assist in every progressive movement that has for its goal the material advancement of mankind in general.

Anton Hoehn was born on February 7, 1861, in Monterey township, this county, on his present farm. He is the son of Frank and Anna (Marschell) Hoehn. His father was born in Byrne, Germany, and came to this country when a very young man, first locating in the city of Cincinnati, where he worked for a number of years. It was in that city that he married Anna Marschell on April 30, 1849, and continued to reside there. In the year 1858 he decided to settle on a farm, then removed to Putnam county, where he purchased a tract of land consisting of ninety-five acres, in Monterey town-

ship, and which remained his homestead until the time of his death, July 27, 1903. In addition to farming, Frank Hoehn devoted a portion of his time to weaving, which trade he had learned, and which proved profitable to some extent. By the first marriage, there were born the following children: Mary K., on February 15, 1850, died on July 6, 1851; Johannes, August 22, 1851, died on August 1, 1853; George, October 1, 1853, deceased; Henry, September 27, 1855, died on March 15, 1863; Johannes Peter, February 3, 1858, died on December 8, 1891; Anton, the subject of this review; Frank Joseph, February 8, 1863. The mother of these children died on February 6, 1865. Frank Hoehn was married, a second time, to Louisa Shoemaker, in Ottoville, and to their union were born the following children: Peter, August 19, 1866, who lives in the state of Michigan; Joseph O., March 8, 1868, died in April, 1873; Henry, March 8, 1873, who lives in Michigan. The mother of these children passed away on April 26, 1887, and the father, as before mentioned, died on July 27, 1903.

In the public schools of Ottawa, Anton Hoehn received his early education and remained with his parents until about the time of his marriage, May 3, 1887, to Margaret Kulhameck, a daughter of Johan and Anna Kulhameck, who were natives of Germany and died in that country years ago. After his marriage, Mr. Hoehn continued to live on the homestead farm and has ever since resided there and from the death of his father, has added more land to the original purchase, until now the tract consists of one hundred and twenty-four and forty-eight hundredths acres. On this place he has erected new buildings and otherwise improved it until now it is regarded as one of the best farms in this locality. In addition to general farming, Mr. Hoehn interests himself in the raising of high grade stock and it is said that he displays considerable judgment in the selection of his stock. To Anton and Margaret (Kulhameck) Hoehn have been born the following named children: William, on May 20, 1888, who graduated from the high school in Ottoville and later married Mary Lising. They live in Lima, Ohio; Joseph H., July 26, 1889, who graduated from the high school in Ottoville and now lives at home; Mary K., July 3, 1891, also a graduate of the same school; Frank O., October 6, 1892; Antoinette, July 22, 1895; Albert L., June 23, 1899; Lee A., January 13, 1901; Sylvester, December 5, 1904; Rudolph, January 10, 1906, and Gilbert J., March 5, 1909. All living with the parents, excepting as noted.

Mr. Hoehn has always been an ardent supporter of the Democratic party and for several years has been a member of the local school board. He does not aspire to public office, but lends his influence in all matters pertaining to



the public welfare of the community in which he lives. He is deeply interested in subjects covering modern methods of farming and is always ready and willing to adopt any improved machinery which makes for greater efficiency on the farm. Personally, Anton Hoehn is a man well thought of by every one who knows him and his past honorable and upright career makes him a man worthy of the confidence of those with whom he comes in contact. The entire family are active members of the Catholic church in Ottoville, and to that church they lend their support and contribute according to their means.

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JOHN F. OCKULY, M. D.

In the learned professions, success is the result of constant study and consecutive research. In commercial life, one may come into possession of a lucrative business through inheritance or gift, but professional advancements are the result of intellectual discipline, thorough knowledge and the possession and utilization of the qualities and attributes essential to success. Dr. John F. Ockuly has made himself eminent in his chosen calling and stands today among the scholarly and enterprising physicians and surgeons of Putnam county, where he is held in the highest esteem and holds the respect and appreciation of all who know him.

Dr. John F. Ockuly, whose standing among the professional men of his county is undisputed, was born in Cleveland on July 11, 1874, and is the son of Frank and Elizabeth (Miller) Ockuly. The father was born in Rockport, Ohio, in April, 1849, and the mother was born in the state of New York on February 5, 1853. Their marriage occurred at Rockport, Ohio, in November, 1872, to which union were born: John F., the subject of this review; Peter A., who lives in Salina, Ohio; Mary, deceased; George J., who resides in Chicago Junction, Ohio. The father was an enterprising and successful carpenter contractor in his day and followed this business in the city of Cleveland until the time of his death, in the year 1882. The mother survived her husband and is residing in Salina at the present time.

Receiving his preparatory education in the public schools of the city of Cleveland and Ottoville and after finishing the various grades there, John F. Ockuly left for Cincinnati, where he entered the medical department of the University of Cincinnati and where he graduated with high honors in the year 1901. Immediately after his graduation, he began a search for a location wherein the services of a physician would be in demand, and finally de-

cided to settle in Ottoville, Putnam county, and this is where he began the practice of medicine and has continued to reside since leaving college.

On June 5, 1903, John F. Ockuly was married to Mary Miller, daughter of John J. and Margaret (Lauer) Miller, and to their union have been born three sons, Eugene A., on August 9, 1904; Orville E., March 13, 1908, and Edward F., November 29, 1914.

Doctor Ockuly is an active member of the Putnam County Medical Society, the Ohio State Medical Association and the American Medical Association. Being a man of conscientious scruples, gentle and kind in disposition, and thoroughly apprehensive of the sufferings of humanity, he has built up a large practice in this county and is held in the highest esteem by all who know him.

Mr. Ockuly is a member of the Knights of Columbus, and affiliated with the Catholic church of Ottoville, where also his family are regular attendants. Doctor Ockuly is a true advocate of the principles of the Democratic party and, though not particularly active in politics, lends an influence that is felt throughout the community. Personally, he is a man whom it is a pleasure to meet and is well spoken of from all sides, and is one who makes friends easily and enjoys a marked popularity among his fellow men. Because of his high personal character and success, he is numbered among the most enterprising and progressive citizens of this community.

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### JOSEPH SCHUMACKER.

The young men are the hope of this country. Their fathers have done a noble work in clearing the wilderness, draining the soil and building passable roads to market. Their work must be carried forward by the present generation of young farmers, until this land is a golden garden, luxuriant with growing grain and teeming with the good things of the earth. The young farmers feel their responsibility, recognize their opportunity and they are now doing valiant service to carry on the noble work of their worthy forbears. Among the progressive young farmers of Putnam county who are fully alert to present-day opportunities, is Joseph Schumacker, of Monterey township.

Joseph Schumacker was born in Allen county, Ohio, near Landeck, in 1875, and is the son of John and Margaret (Schille) Schumacker. John Schumacker is a native of Putnam county, having been born near Glandorf

on December 24, 1842. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Margaret Schille, was born in Allen county. They have had nine children, all of whom are living, Anna is the wife of Henry Puval; they live in Monterey township; Joseph, the second child, is the subject of this sketch; Lena is the wife of L. Kramer, of Marion, Ohio; Susie is the wife of Anthony Janke; they live in Ottoville; John M., August 7, 1881, married Mary Martin, June 4, 1908, and they have three children, Albert, born on July 9, 1909; Marie, May 17, 1913; Lenhardt, October 4, 1914. John M. Schumacker is a farmer in Monterey township and owns a farm of about forty-three acres; Frank, the sixth child, lives in Jackson township, Putnam county; Henry lives near New Bavaria; Mary is the wife of Dudley Carpenter; they live in Cincinnati; and Rosa is the wife of Clyde Ladon, and lives at McGuffy, Ohio.

John Schumacker, the father of Joseph, followed farming all his life and now lives with his children. He has been an industrious, hard-working man and has well earned the respect which comes to him in his old age.

Joseph Schumacker started in life without any financial assistance from relatives or friends. His first venture was in the saloon business, in which he was in partnership with Joseph Frey. He remained in this business for four months and, during this time, lost thirty-five dollars. He then went to work for Mrs. Joseph Frey, working about one year. Subsequently, he formed a partnership with Henry and Peter Frey and during this year he purchased forty acres of land south of Keiferville, in Putnam county. This partnership continued for about one year, at the end of which time there was a sale, and the farm implements and grain were sold. Mr. Schumacker then learned the carpenter trade and worked at it for two years. In the fall of 1904, Mr. Schumacker was married. Two years after his marriage, he purchased a twenty-acre farm adjoining his original forty acres and rented his father's farm. In 1908 he sold the sixty acres and purchased eighty acres in section 30, southeast of Ottoville. It is known as the Prairie View Stock Farm. Mr. Schumacker has been an extensive breeder of Belgian and Percheron horses. He now owns the following imported horses: "Mistigri Ragnies," registered number 4947, Belgium; mare, "Jeanneton De Bossierre," Belgium, register number 1495; "Volligeur Du Kat," Belgium, register number 6024; and "Janvier," register American number 78673. Mr. Schumacker also owns a thoroughbred Belgium colt. He has improved his place by expensive drainage and has a good house and barn.

In 1904 Mr. Schumacker was married to Fronie Martin, the daughter of William and Mary (Leschman) Martin. To this happy union three chil-

dren have been born, Salome, on April 21, 1906; Norbert, January 27, 1909, and Albertha, September 22, 1911. All of these children are at home.

Mr. Schumacker is a Democrat. Mr. and Mrs. Schumacker and the family are all members of the Catholic church. They are highly respected in Monterey township and Mr. Schumacker is regarded as an enterprising self-made young farmer, well deserving the confidence and esteem of his neighbors and fellow citizens.

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#### DAVID ROWLANDS.

Perhaps some countries have given of their good citizens to this country to become the bone and sinew of the citizenship of this republic, but no country has given better citizens to the United States than Wales. Welshmen seem to be possessed of a peculiar spirit of thrift which is unlike that characterizing the people of any other country. It is true that success cannot be achieved without unflagging industry, yet the futility of effort is often noticeable in the business world. Somehow the people of Wales and their descendants are able to combine industry and sound judgment and to get splendid success from this combination. Many men give their entire life to toil, yet never acquire a competence, but true Welshmen seem to be able to direct their efforts into fruitful channels. Mr. Rowlands is a man whose work has been supplemented by careful management and today he is numbered among the most successful of the retired business men of Columbus Grove and vicinity.

David Rowlands, himself a native born American, was born on April 2, 1847, at Remsen, Oneida county, New York, the son of Roland T. and Susan (Lloyd) Rowlands, the former of whom was born in April, 1813, in Montgomeryshire, North Wales. He was the son of John Rowlands and wife.

Roland T. Rowlands came to America in the early forties, as a young man and was a pattern-maker by trade. He located at Utica, New York, where he remained about ten years, after which time he came to Columbus, Ohio, and there spent the balance of his life. After coming to this country he continued his trade of pattern-maker and was also an expert mechanic. He was also a splendid musician and possessed of an artistic temperament. He had a fine melodious voice and greatly enjoyed singing. Late in life, he joined the Presbyterian church and was a faithful member. He was a well-read man and was an exceptionally fine reader of the Welsh language. It is related that he made the first printing press for the *Cumarder*, a Welsh maga-

zine organized in the forties at Utica, New York. He died at Columbus, Ohio, September 20, 1899, at the ripe age of eighty-six. His wife, Susan Lloyd, was born in the northern part of Wales, in Montgomeryshire, in 1818. She was the daughter of Richard Lloyd and wife, the former died in Wales and the latter came to America with her children, about 1840, locating at Utica, New York. It seems that the coming of Susan Lloyd to America was flavored with a touch of romance. Her mother brought her to America to escape the ardent attention of David Rowland's father. He, however, was not to be outdone, and in a short time he sailed for America and in due time presented himself in Utica with the natural result that he gained the hand of the fair young woman and she became his bride. After their marriage, they spent a few years in Cattaraugus county, New York, and then removed to Columbus, Ohio. Here, after a most beautiful and useful life, her days ended December 20, 1882. She was the mother of ten children, four of whom died in infancy. The others are: Ann, the widow of Louis Evans; David, the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth, the wife of Patrick Nugent; Thomas, who married Theresa Schall; Ambrose, deceased; and Susan.

David Rowlands, the subject of this sketch, came as a child with his parents to Columbus, where he grew to manhood. Here he learned the carriage painter trade and, at the age of thirty, moved to Columbus Grove, in Putnam county, where he purchased a carriage-painting shop. He conducted this business very successfully for fifteen years, at the end of which time he retired from business and has since been engaged in looking after his private and personal interests.

David Rowlands was married on August 1, 1878, at the age of thirty-one to Marcella Devine, the daughter of Thomas and Eleanor (Reynolds) Devine. Mrs. Rowlands is a native of Columbus Grove and was born on December 14, 1862. She was graduated from the common and high schools at Columbus Grove. Her father, Thomas Devine, was a native of County Donegal, Ireland, born on April 17, 1826, and the son of James and Isabella (Carlin) Devine. Thomas Devine was a farmer and road contractor in Ireland and, after coming to America, at the age of twenty-one, worked for a time at odd jobs. He arrived in New Orleans in 1848, and subsequently, came up the river to Cincinnati and got a job on a railroad. He helped to construct the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad from Hamilton to Toledo and became foreman of construction. Later, he built several miles of the road under contract. He finally settled in Columbus Grove and was given charge of a section of the road. In this capacity, he acted as agent for wood used for fuel on the road from Lima to Toledo. In this way, he became

wealthy and at the time of his death owned four farms in Putnam and Allen counties, besides considerable other property. His wife, Eleanor Reynolds, was born on June 15, 1826, in County Roscommon, Ireland, and came to America with her widowed mother with six other children. They landed in 1829 in Toronto, Canada, and came on to Hamilton, Ohio. Her parents were Patrick and Mary (Burns) Reynolds, the former of whom died in Ireland and the latter in Hamilton, Ohio, about 1860.

Thomas Devine and Eleanor Reynolds were married on February 16, 1851, at Hamilton, Ohio. To this union were born five children, Thomas, Jr.; James R.; Isabella, the wife of Herman Hoffman; Thomas Charles; all of whom are deceased, and Marcella, the wife of Mr. Rowlands.

Since attaining his majority, Mr. Rowlands has been a Republican and has been more or less active in times past in councils of his party. Mrs. Rowlands is a member of the Catholic church and a woman of rare culture and refinement. She is very prominent socially in Columbus Grove and vicinity, as are all the members of the Rowlands family. Mr. and Mrs. Rowlands have been the parents of one daughter, Eleanor Agnes, who is now the wife of Dr. Wiley D. Hickey, of Leipsic. Doctor Hickey and wife are the parents of one daughter, Dorothy.

Mr. Rowlands's splendid success in life has been founded upon sterling integrity, scrupulous business dealings and excellent judgment. These qualities have won him the universal confidence and esteem of the public.

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#### PETER SCHMITT.

Any person who will investigate the facts in the case, will be surprised to learn the great number of people of Germanic nativity and descent now living in the United States. Unquestionably the greatest number of immigrants reaching the shores of the new world come from that nation. There is more Germanic blood in the United States than any other. This being a fact, it is easy to account for the prosperity and morality of this country. Not only that, but it affords an explanation for the love of learning shown by the people of that vast nation. Germany is famous, the world over, for its remarkable universities, for its educated men, for its poets and philosophers and for the industry, patience, intelligence, morality and sturdiness of its citizens. These qualities have been brought to this country by the immigrants and are now a part of our wonderful nation—its progress in

domestic economy, its advancement in every branch of material development and its love of country and home.

Peter Schmitt, the son of John J. and Anna M. (Schlig) Schmitt, was born in Prussia on August 13, 1865. His parents came to the United States in 1868 and settled in Landeck, Allen county, where John J. Schmitt died in 1872. His wife, who before her marriage was Anna M. Schlig, lived there until 1883, when she married Frank Clementz, and then moved to Ottoville.

John J. Schmitt learned the weaver trade in his native land and when he first came to the United States, followed this trade, in fact, he followed it almost all the time until his death. John J. and Anna M. Schmitt had four children, three of whom are living, Peter, the subject of this sketch; Mary, the wife of George Breckler, who lives near Defiance; Henry, who died at the age of thirty-two, and August, who lives in Ottoville. One child, Anthony Clementz, was born to the second marriage of Mrs. Schmitt.

Frank Clementz learned the stone mason trade in Alsace, Germany, and came to the United States in 1876, locating at Massillon, Ohio. He remained here until 1880, when he moved to Putnam county and settled on a farm in Monterey township. He followed farming and worked at his trade during the remainder of his life. He died in 1902, and his wife, the mother of Peter Schmitt, died on March 4, 1914.

Peter Schmitt was educated in the public schools of Landeck. He learned the mason trade with his step-father and when the latter retired from active life, in 1894, Peter Schmitt took up the work which his step-father had carried on. He has followed this trade in connection with contracting and building since that time. In 1910, Mr. Schmitt started a cement block factory and has manufactured cement blocks on a large scale since that time. He manufactures blocks for all purposes and he handles all kinds of building material, including cement, gravel and brick. His factory is located in the west end of Ottoville. Mr. Schmitt owns twenty acres of land.

Peter Schmitt was married on May 23, 1894, to Louisa Perrin, the daughter of Joseph and Margaret (Harris) Perrin. Joseph Perrin was born in Franklin county, near Columbus, Ohio. His wife was born in Putnam county, where they were married. Eight children were born to them, three of whom are now deceased, Louisa, the wife of Mr. Schmitt; Louis, who lives in Oklahoma; William, who lives on the homestead in Monterey township; Henry, who lives in Ottoville, and Albert, who lives on the old homestead farm. The parents are both living in Monterey township.

To Peter and Louisa (Perrin) Schmitt eight children have been born,

all of whom are now living, Matilda, on March 25, 1895, who is the wife of Anthony Altenburger, of Ottoville; Joseph P., May 21, 1896, who is at home; Gertrude, October 3, 1897, who is a graduate of the Ottoville high school and a telephone operator at Ottoville; Sylvester A., December 21, 1901, graduated and has just entered high school; Regina, March 1, 1903; Marcella, September 1, 1905; Bertha, December 11, 1909, and Ethel, born on December 4, 1911, all of whom are at home.

Mr. Schmitt is a Democrat, but he has never held office and has never cared for office. The family are influential members of the Catholic church at Ottoville.

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### HENRY SEHLHORST.

The qualities which have made Henry Sehlhorst prominent and successful in the eyes of the community in which he lives, are no more than those possessed by others of indomitable courage, honesty of purpose and consecutive effort along well-defined lines which ultimately result in a satisfactory degree of success in life. Henry Sehlhorst began his career in a very humble manner and persevering with great determination and by honorable methods has established for himself a reputation, standing for all that is honorable, upright, industrious, economical and exemplary in his every-day life and conduct. For such a man it is quite proper that he be accorded a place among the representative citizens of the county in which he lives since his patience and steadfast integrity show what is in the power of each to accomplish.

Henry Sehlhorst was born on August 7, 1860, in Glandorf, Ottawa township, Ohio, and is the son of Henry and Elizabeth. (Hesslink) Sehlhorst. His father was a native of the Province of Oldenburg, Germany, where he lived with his parents until he grew to manhood and, at the age of twenty-two, he immigrated to America, settling first in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he followed his trade as a cooper in a large shop of that kind. He acquired a first-class knowledge of this trade in Holland before embarking to this country. While in Cincinnati, he met and married Denia Swafmann, who was also a native of Germany, and to them two children were born, Katherine, who married a Mr. Kline and now resides in Utica, New York, and Josephine, who died in 1902. Henry Sehlhorst remained in Cincinnati for quite a while and then decided to settle in Glandorf, in Putnam county, where he continued his trade, as a cooper, and about six months later, in the year 1857, he lost his wife by death. Two years after this he was married to Elizabeth



Kesslink, a daughter of Hiram and Catherine (Klupenhrosch) Hesslink, both natives of Germany, who came to America, settling close to Glandorf, where Elizabeth was born on March 22, 1841. Hiram Hesslink was married twice in Germany, and by his first wife had two sons and three daughters. The second marriage resulted in the birth of two daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth. Mr. Hesslink first settled on a thirty-acre farm, where the town of Glandorf now stands, which he sold, and then bought eighty acres, which is located three miles west of Glandorf, where Elizabeth was born and grew to womanhood and was married.

Henry Sehlhorst, Sr., the father of Henry J., bought eighty acres of land between Ottawa and Leipsic, this county, which he rented out one one-half shares for the purpose of grazing cattle, while he continued his trade as a cooper. He died of lung fever in 1867, about which time he was forty-two years of age. His wife, Elizabeth, proved to be a great helpmeet to him and was ever a devoted wife and a loving mother. To them were born five children, Henry, Jr.; John; Elizabeth, who is the wife of Barney Ellerbrock and resides near Findlay; William, who lives in Liberty township, near Leipsic, and Frank, who lives in Liberty township. Mrs. Elizabeth (Hesslink) Sehlhorst was married, a second time, on May 30, 1868, to John Lammers, and they are living at Columbus Grove. To this last union were born the following children: Barney Lammers, living in Allen county, Ohio; George Lammers, residing in Liberty township; Mary, who is now the wife of Frank Karcher, of Allen county, Ohio; Charley and Wesley (twins), who died in infancy; Josephine Karcher, who is now the wife of Jacob Karcher, of Union township; Filemena Fisel, who is now the wife of Edward Fisel, of Pleasant township; Anna, who married Mr. Basinger and is now deceased; Katharine, who married Frank Krouse and is now deceased, and Jerome Lammers, who is married and lives on a farm in Liberty township.

Henry Sehlhorst, the subject of this review, was married on February 1, 1883, to Mary Folmering, a daughter of Theodore and Bernadina (Sebi-neck) Folmering, the former a native of Germany, and the latter a native of Glandorf, Ohio. They are both living and reside on their farm in Liberty township, but lead a life of retirement from active farm work. They have a son, Henry, who manages the place for them and it is said that he does it with great credit. The old folks celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1910, on the home place. The father is now seventy-nine and the mother is sixty-nine years of age. To them were born six children, Mary; William, who lives in Liberty township; Christena, who is now Mrs. Neese, of Liberty township; Catherine, now Mrs. Buttondick, of Liberty township; Henry, the

manager of the home place, and Elizabeth, who is Mrs. Gerding, of Liberty township. To Henry Sehlhorst and wife have been born eight children, Elizabeth, who married Barney Segar and lives in Pleasant township and who have two children, Edwin and Clara; John, who married Minnie Beckman and lives in Pleasant township; Henry, who remains with his parents; William, who married Laura Meyers, have one child, Victor, and live in Pleasant township; Catherine, who lives with her parents, also Frank, Josephine and Agnes, who are at home.

In boyhood Henry Sehlhorst spent his days under the parental roof, assisting his father around the place and, whenever possible, would hire out to neighbors. The money obtained for his work he would always bring home and his earnings were a great help to his parents in the early days. For some time he assisted his step-father in clearing a sixty-acre farm in Pleasant township. This required a great deal of ditching and draining before it was put in shape for farming, but, nevertheless, in less than two years, he purchased this tract of land from his step-father for the sum of two thousand dollars. It should be particularly noted that such a purchase must have been the result of great self-denial when it is considered that his services brought such small sums as fifty to seventy-five cents per day. Henry continued to get this land in good shape and erected thereon a log house and barn, which logs were cut from the heavy timber on the place, both the barn and house being lined with clapboards and made very comfortable. From this original sixty acres, he sold twenty oak trees, which brought the sum of forty-five dollars in those days. This was really the beginning of his success as a farmer and, by that close application and fixed determination to win, he began to acquire more land. Six years later he added to his holdings twenty acres and continued to add to the original tract until this farm assumed a total of three hundred sixty acres, being the result of close saving and the exercise of careful management and unremitting attention to work. Most of the money he had made during the earlier days was from cutting timber and hauling cordwood to Columbus Grove. At the present time the greater portion of the land is cleared, but ten acres of timber is yet left standing. A fine residence was erected on the place and the necessary number of farm buildings for proper care of live stock, grain and machinery. Having had considerable experience in timber and knowing the value of such land at the present day, Mr. Sehlhorst invested in four hundred and eighty acres of virgin timber land in the state of Missouri, which he obtained for the sum of twenty-five dollars per acre.

All things considered, Henry Sehlhorst has been a decided success in his chosen line of endeavor, and besides, has devoted no small amount of his time toward furthering the interests of his community. He is a firm believer in the economical results to be obtained from the building of good roads and himself helped to have fourteen miles of stone road built in the township.

Personally, Mr. Sehlhorst is a man of pleasing disposition and, having the faculty of making and retaining friends, is regarded as a first-class "mixer" in the community. He is always a booster for the advancement of the welfare of the people and is looked upon as a peaceful man, yet a strong leader when it comes to asserting himself for that which is right and honest. He is an ardent advocate of the principles of Democracy and cast his first vote when Cleveland ran for the presidency for the first time. Though not an aspirant for public office, he served the people for five years as township trustee, 1904-1909, and which office he filled with great efficiency and credit. He is a member of the Catholic church in Columbus Grove. Being one of the organizers of the church, he has contributed most liberally toward its support and takes an active part in church affairs, being regarded as one of the pillars of the institution.

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#### BERNARD ANTHONY RUHE.

Among the strong and influential citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, the record of whose lives have become an essential part of the history of this region, the gentleman whose name forms the caption for this sketch occupies a prominent place and for years has exerted a beneficial influence in the locality in which he resides. His chief characteristics are keenness of perception, a tireless energy, honesty of purpose and motive and every-day common sense, which has enabled him not only to advance his own interests, but also largely contribute to the moral and material advancement of the community.

Bernard Anthony Ruhe was born in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, on February 28, 1857, and is the son of Joseph and Mary Anna (Whitkamp) Ruhe. His parents were both natives of Germany and were born in about the same locality in that country, where they grew up to maturity and were married. They immigrated to the United States in an early day and first settled on a forty-acre tract of land situated about three miles south of the town of Glandorf, and which land they purchased. The father was a life-long and successful farmer and kept adding to the original forty acres until he accumulated a total of one hundred and sixty acres. His first year

in this county was occupied, in addition to farming, in assisting in building the Miami & Erie canal which was being constructed through this section, and he probably paid for his farm with his earnings from the labor expended on the canal. He died on December 28, 1879, at the age of sixty-seven years, after having lived a most useful and highly industrious life. He was highly regarded by every one who knew him and was particularly noted for his genial disposition and kindness toward his fellow men. His life was one of true devotion to correct principles and his home. He was a liberal contributor, personally and financially, to worthy enterprises, and particularly to the church to which he belonged. Being one of the earliest settlers in this region, he was busy early and late clearing the land, suffered all the hardships of pioneer life and did everything in his power to make a good home for himself and family. In this he was successful in every sense of the word. His death occurred suddenly, while he was attending divine service and while in his seat in the Catholic church at Glandorf, of which he was a member. His funeral was the first to be held in the Catholic church at Glandorf. His wife survived him and died on the homestead farm during the month of September, 1896. To them were born the following named children: Barney, of Liberty township; Theresa (Mrs. Hinken), of Covington, Kentucky; Josephine, who was Mrs. Knueve, now deceased; Henry, who lives on the homestead farm; Catherine (Mrs. Wuort Koetter), who lives in Williams county, Ohio; Bernard, the subject of this review; Joseph and Theodore, both of whom died in infancy. Further information covering the parental history of the subject of this review may be found elsewhere in this work under the caption, Henry Ruhe.

Bernard A. Ruhe spent his early youth on his father's farm, attended the Glandorf schools, remaining with his parents until the age of twenty-three years, when, on November 24, 1881, he was married to Sophia Henke, of Van Wert county, who was a daughter of Christopher and Mary Angeline (Aubke) Henke, both of whom were natives of Germany.

Christopher Henke was born in the town of Osnabruck and came alone to the United States and first settled on a forty-acre farm west of Delphos, which place he purchased while in the employ of the company constructing the Miami & Erie canal, being built through this section at that time. At a later date he removed to Ottoville, this county, where he bought eighty acres and then continued to farm until the time of his death. He was always a supporter of the Democratic ticket, but did not take an active interest in politics. He was a member of the Catholic church in Ottoville. His wife and Mary Angeline Aubke came to this country from Germany with her father,

Frederick Aubke, whose wife died when Mary Angeline Aubke was about twenty years of age. The father and daughter first settled in this country in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was engaged in teaching school in Luckland, near Cincinnati, in which profession he continued for about five years. Mary Angeline remained with her father for about two years and until the time of her marriage to Christopher Henke, when she went to Delphos to live on his farm. To their union were born the following children: Frederick, who died in infancy; Sophia, subject's wife; Henry, who lived near Chardon, Ohio, and died in 1913; Elizabeth, died in 1880; Christian, died about the year 1872; Benjamin, and Philomenia (Mrs. Clayborn), now deceased.

After the marriage of Anthony Ruhe he came directly to his present farm, which then contained eighty acres and belonged to his father, but which Anthony subsequently bought. This place was then described as a heavily-timbered and swampy piece of land, with the exception of seven or eight acres, but Mr. Ruhe began work on it in a most systematic manner and finally, after a complete method of drainage had been installed, the entire place fenced in, the necessary buildings erected, this farm is regarded as a leader in production for general farming and, in addition to tilling the soil, the owner makes a specialty of feeding large numbers of hogs and cattle. He is considered a splendid judge of live stock and takes pride in his possessions. The residence, which was constructed at considerable expense, is modern, commodious and comfortable. To B. Anthony and Sophia (Henke) Ruhe have been born five children, as follows: Frank, who married Elizabeth Kleman, of Liberty township, and who have three children, Alfred, Esther, Dorothy. They are engaged in farming; George, who married Frances Hovest and conducts a farm across the road from his father's place. They have two children, Edna and Amos Joseph; Theodore, who married Lucy Meyers, and farms in Palmer township, near Miller City. They have three children, Frank Elvin, Henry Irving and Elizabeth; Otto Frederick and Philomena, both living with their parents, the former a graduate of the Ottawa (Ohio) Business College, where he received his diploma on March 31, 1907, having taken the general insurance course of instructions. Anthony Ruhe has been active all his life and is a staunch Democrat. He can always be relied upon to be on hand at the call of his party and lends his influence whenever needed. He held office as county commissioner from 1906 to 1911, and has served as a member of the school board for many years, his interest being keen in educational affairs. During his service of two terms as commissioner he, at all times, insisted upon an economical expenditure of public funds. At no time in the history of Putnam county did the taxpayers ever more nearly

get value received for their money than they did while Mr. Ruhe was commissioner. His colleagues, while in this office, were David F. Owens, J. H. Rower, Jacob Bright and Jacob Best. He was a member of the building committee, and chairman of the committee on finance which raised the funds for the erection of the present beautiful and imposing court house in Ottawa, this county. Mr. Ruhe was secretary of the German Mutual Fire Insurance Company for two years and assisted in its organization throughout the county and is still an active member of that association. He also served this community as township assessor for two terms, which office he filled with credit to himself and to the advancement of the material welfare of the community. He is a member of the St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf, to which his family are members also. He firmly believes in the articles of faith taught by his church and is a devout and regular attendant.

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#### FERDINAND HEISING.

It is generally considered by those in the habit of superficial thinking that the history of so-called great men only is worthy of preservation and that little merit exists among the masses to call forth the praises of the historian or the cheers of appreciation of mankind. A greater mistake was never made. No man is great in all things. Many, by a lucky stroke, achieve lasting fame, who before that, had no reputation beyond their immediate neighborhood. It is not the history of the lucky stroke which benefits humanity most, but the long, steady efforts which made the lucky stroke possible. It is the preliminary work, the methods which serve as a guide for the success of others. Among those men of Putnam county who have achieved success by a steady, persistent effort, is Ferdinand Heising, of Fort Jennings, in Jennings township, who is now living retired.

On January 21, 1853, Ferdinand Heising was born in Hanover, Germany. He is the son of Joseph and Agnes (Kleekamp) Heising, who came to the United States and to Putnam county in 1872, where they settled in Jennings township. Two children were born to them, both of whom are living, Ferdinand, the subject of this sketch, and Henry, who is a farmer of Jennings township. Joseph Heising was a laborer. He and his wife are both deceased.

Ferdinand Heising received a good education in Germany, which has helped him greatly since coming to this county. He has always been called upon to serve his township and his community in many ways. He has been

clerk of the village of Ft. Jennings for the past twenty years and is also township clerk, a position which he has held for fifteen years. He came to the United States and Putnam county in 1870, and engaged in the saw-mill business. He was in this business for thirty-four consecutive years, retiring about seven years ago.

On October 13, 1875, Mr. Heising was married to Margaret Kramer, a daughter of Lawrence and Magdalena Kramer, both natives of Germany, who came to the United States and Putnam county in an early day. Lawrence Kramer was a farmer and both he and his wife are now deceased.

Eight children have been born to Ferdinand and Margaret (Kramer) Heising, seven of whom are still living, Mary, the wife of Joseph Runser, of Kingsley, Michigan; Frank, who lives at Grand Rapids, Ohio; Agnes, the wife of George Brenner, of Ft. Jennings; Christina, the wife of Alfred Best, of Delphos; Clara, who is at home; Mathias, who lives at Ft. Jennings; Joseph, who is a mechanic of Toledo; and Helen, who died at the age of thirteen.

Mrs. Ferdinand Heising passed away on April 15, 1911. She was a devoted wife and loving mother and her death is keenly mourned by her husband and children.

Mr. Heising is a Democrat. He and his family are members of the Catholic church at Ft. Jennings and are prominent in the affairs of this church, contributing liberally to its support. Because of his splendid training for public service, Ferdinand Heising is a man who is very well known in Jennings township and he has always been regarded as a leader in this community. He has won a satisfactory measure of success by steady and persistent efforts and fairly merits the esteem and confidence imposed upon him by his fellow citizens.

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#### WILLIAM TANNER MAPEL.

It is an axiom demonstrated by all human experience that industry is the key to prosperity. Success comes not to him who idly waits for fortune's favors, but to the faithful toiler, whose persistent industry and sleepless vigilance takes advantage of every circumstance calculated to promote his interest. Such a man is the gentleman whose name forms the caption of this biographical review, a man well known and a highly esteemed citizen of Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio. William Tanner Mapel is a young farmer who has made a splendid success in a comparatively short period and

this success he owes to faithfulness to duty and a strict adherence to a fixed purpose. These always do more to advance a man's interests than wealth or advantageous position. He is known as a young man of strictly honest business principles, industrious, pleasant and agreeable.

William Tanner Mapel was born on May 13, 1887, at Columbus Grove, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of William Thrapp and Margaret (Tanner) Mapel. William Thrapp Mapel was born at Gilboa, Ohio, on August 1, 1846, the son of Simon and Rachel (Thrapp) Mapel. William Mapel received his education during his early years at Gilboa, and, at the age of fourteen, was taken out of school and put to work in his father's store. Here he began the acquisition of that practical business education of which he made such good use all of his life. He continued to be thus employed until after the Civil War. William Mapel enlisted at the outbreak of the war, in the Seventy-eighth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and participated in the famous Sherman's march from Atlanta to the sea. After his discharge, he returned home and again engaged in business with his father, coming with him and other members of the family, to Columbus Grove, March 10, 1868. He married Margaret Tanner, the daughter of William T. and Phoebe (Stump) Tanner. William T. Tanner was born near Coshocton, Ohio, on March 16, 1812, and came to Muskingum county, in 1835, at the age of twenty-three years. He married Phoebe Stump, the daughter of his employer, February 18, 1836. She was born on September 11, 1814, and died February 18, 1881. Her parents were Leonard and Phoebe Stump, who immigrated from Virginia in 1805, to Muskingum county, Ohio, settling near Irville. To William T. Tanner and wife were born eight children, James E., Mrs. Mary A. Springer, Martha, William, Oscar W., Mrs. Rachel A. Marshall, Mrs. Margaret Mapel and Mrs. Malinda Drake. William T. Tanner was a Democrat and cast his first vote for Martin Van Buren in 1836. He was county commissioner for seven years, infirmary director for six years and held various other township offices. He was a member of the board of directors at the time the new infirmary and court house were built. He was a member of Lafayette Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, for over forty years. After his wife's death, he was married, a second time, on April 11, 1882, to Mrs. Mary E. Tanner.

William Mapel and wife were the parents of three children, Frank, who died at the age of two years; Mrs. Leona Tanner Busch, of Columbus Grove, and William Tanner, the subject of this sketch. William Mapel was an energetic business man and successful in acquiring property. He was systematic



in all that he did and far-seeing in all of his plans. He pushed vigorously and insistently those interests in which he was engaged and success always crowned his efforts. He was a man of somewhat nervous temperament and quick of speech, but kind of heart and loyal to his friends. Many sought his counsels and all found a friend. He was fond of children and devoted to those of his own household. He was a member of Columbus Grove Grand Army of the Republic Post, and of Rufus Lodge No. 364, Free and Accepted Masons. After the death of his father, Simon Mapel, in 1891, he became interested in the present Exchange Bank and was, for years, a leading figure in the business affairs of his home town. He will long be remembered by the people of this vicinity among whom he had many friends. He was a Democrat and held many minor offices. Although he was active in party affairs locally, he did not care to leave his business for higher offices. While making no pretensions of philanthropy, he aided many, especially in the circle of his immediate relatives and friends, who turned to him spontaneously for counsel, sympathy and assistance. He died September 3, 1912.

Simon Mapel, the father of William Thrapp Mapel and the grandfather of William Tanner Mapel, was born on June 9, 1814, in Greene county, Pennsylvania, and died November 3, 1891, at the age of seventy-seven years, four months and twenty-four days. He moved from Greene county in 1839, to Maysville, Kentucky, and remained there until 1842, when he moved to Bluffton, Ohio, where he remained for one year. In the next year he came to Putnam county and settled at Gilboa. He engaged in the mercantile business with William Hughes and, in 1855, he formed a co-partnership with the late Stansberry Sutton, which continued until 1868, when he moved to Columbus Grove, where he engaged in the mercantile business and continued until 1874, when he went into the banking business. He continued in the banking business until his death, in 1891. He was thrice married, first to Johanna G. McGuire, July 9, 1836; second to Rachel Thrapp, May 27, 1845, and third to Catherine McClure, March 5, 1861. He was the father of thirteen children by the three marriages. At the age of nineteen years he united with the Methodist Protestant church and was a member until 1873, when he united with the Methodist Episcopal church. He remained a member of this church until his death and was an earnest and faithful worker in the affairs of the church. His highest ambitions were to see the church grow and prosper. He held the office of county commissioner for six years, from 1866 to 1872, and was an earnest and upright official. He did much to develop the county and was active at the time when energy and push were re-

quired to develop the various industries which were then in their infancy. He was an active Democrat. His third wife, Catherine McClure, was the daughter of Andrew and Mary McClure, and was born on February 3, 1834, in Putnam county. She was the second child in a family of ten children, comprising six daughters and four sons. Her father, Andrew McClure, was one of the early settlers of Putnam county and entered a farm close to Gilboa in 1833, when there was only one white woman in the neighborhood, Grandma Hall. Their associates were mostly Indians. Catherine McClure had taught school from the time she was fifteen years of age. By this third marriage there was one daughter, Zoe, who still lives at Columbus Grove.

William Tanner Mapel was married, January 14, 1913, to Anna Furnas, the daughter of Linas T. and Anna (Tinker) Furnas. Linas T. Furnas, a manufacturer of lingerie, at Lima, was born on February 20, 1852, at Pleasant Hill, the son of William Furnas, born in December, 1806, in Miami county, and who died, December 24, 1866. William Furnas married Sarah Terry, of Greenville, Ohio, who was born there July 26, 1816. Anna Tinker was born at Middlefield, Massachusetts, and was the daughter of Samuel and Nancy Tinker. Linas T. Furnas was married to Anna Tinker at Belle Plaine, Iowa. They have three children, Earle Stevens, born on June 28, 1874, died on September 4, 1886; Everett Cable, February 27, 1882, and Anna, the wife of Mr. Mapel, December 10, 1890. Mr. and Mrs. William Tanner Mapel have two children, Marjorie and James Furnas.

Mr. Mapel spent his boyhood days in Columbus Grove and left home after his marriage, coming to the present farm bequeathed to him by his father. He owns one hundred and fifty-seven acres of well-improved land, which is in excellent condition. He follows general farming. The buildings were in splendid repair when Mr. Mapel received it from his father's estate, in the spring of 1913. However, he has made some improvements since that time.

Receiving his early education in Columbus Grove, Mr. Mapel was graduated from the high school and spent one year at Ohio State University in the engineering department. He is a progressive young man, well liked and has one of the best farms in Putnam county. He is quiet and unassuming in manner and possessed of an open and frank disposition. He is loyal to his friends and a booster in behalf of civic improvements, a Democrat, and he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Mapel is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons at Columbus Grove and a member of the chapter at Ottawa.

## HARRY B. MAPEL.

Harry B. Mapel, postmaster at Columbus Grove, Putnam county, Ohio, is one of the well-known younger citizens of this county. In his veins flows a notable mixture of the best blood which the countries of Europe have contributed to American manhood and American citizenship. Scotch and English on his paternal side, on his maternal side he is pure German. Educated in the school of business, he was for a decade or more, before his election as postmaster, one of the leading young business men of the county, of genteel habits and kindly expression, so keen intellectually and progressive in spirit.

Born on June 22, 1874, at Columbus Grove, Harry B. Mapel has resided here all of his life. His parents, Louis and Sarah Mapel, are old-time residents of Pleasant township, the father having been born a few miles north of Columbus Grove, at Gilboa, in Blanchard township, the son of a father who was Scotch by nativity and a mother of English extraction. Simon and Rachel Mapel, the grandparents of Harry B., were people of exceptional intelligence for the time in which they lived.

The youth of Harry B. Mapel did not differ perhaps from the youth of scores of other boys of Putnam county, except that he was a young man of extraordinary studious habits. After finishing the common schools of Putnam county, and attending the Columbus Grove high school for some time, he left school to enter his father's clothing store and here he obtained a good mercantile education and apprenticeship for a business career. Subsequently, an arrangement was effected by his father in which he and his two sons shared the profits of the enterprise equally, although Harry B. was never an active owner or partner.

It was during his connection with his father's business that Mr. Mapel became interested in collecting historic Indian relics of all kinds. By purchase and otherwise, he has collected one of the most extensive and valuable group of arrow heads, tomahawks and other Indian utensils of warfare and agriculture, to be found in this part of the state. A part of the collection is on display in the Louis Mapel store and a part of it the owner keeps in his own home. Naturally, he is very proud of this collection, having spent great effort and considerable money in getting it together. From time to time, as it is possible, he is adding to the collection. There is no doubt that this group of historical and primitive curios will become one of the most priceless heritages he might leave to his children.

Mr. Mapel has been closely identified, not only with his father's business,

but the business life of Columbus Grove, and this part of Putnam county for many years. Upon his election as postmaster, on November 1, 1913, he abandoned the active pursuit of business and is giving to the people of Columbus Grove and vicinity an efficient administration in that responsible position.

On October 11, 1901, Mr. Mapel was married, in Columbus Grove, to Cora Belle Cupp, who was born on November 30, 1874, in Allen county, Ohio, and who is the daughter of Henry and Mary Cupp. Mrs. Mapel was one of seven children born to her parents, the others being Lena, May, Orrin, Clay, Lulu and Walter. To Harry B. and Cora Belle (Cupp) Mapel have been born three children, Lawrence, Louis and Frank.

Harry B. Mapel is a Democrat and one who has been active in the councils of his party in Pleasant township ever since attaining his majority. To some extent his election as postmaster is a fair reward for past services in behalf of the success of his party. Although he is a natural leader of men, his manners are modest and his disposition kindly and tender. He leads, as a result of his alert and active mind, his capacity for logical and consistent reasoning. Mr. and Mrs. Mapel and their delightful family reside at Columbus Grove, where the family is well known and popular. Mrs. Mapel is a woman of refined and sensitive impulses, well educated and possessed of those charming graces which go to make the home both simple and beautiful.

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### JOHN BOGART.

John Bogart, a well-known farmer of Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, living on route 1 out of Columbus Grove, is a man who has performed his share of hard and laborious work. His fidelity to duty has won for him the respect and confidence of his neighbors and fellow citizens. By patient continuance in well doing he has gradually risen from an humble station to his present high standing as a progressive farmer of Putnam county. Mr. Bogart has worked his way up from a modest beginning to a position of considerable prominence. He is in every respect worthy of the confidence and esteem of his neighbors.

John Bogart was born in Allen county, Monroe township, on June 4, 1875. He is the son of E. Abraham and Anna Elizabeth (Jones) Bogart, both of whom were natives of Ohio, she in Paulding county and he in Putnam county. Three children were born to them, as follow: Ida, Thomas

and John, the subject of this sketch. John Bogart's mother died when he was but four years old and his father was married, a second time, to Mary Newell, and by this union one child was born, Lilla; E. Abraham Bogart served as sheriff of Allen county for two terms and he now lives in Pleasant township, Putnam county.

John Bogart spent his boyhood days on the farm in Allen county, which was the homestead farm of his parents and here he performed the usual labors that fall to the lot of the country boy. He received his education in the old Turner township school in Pleasant township, across the line from Allen county. With the exception of four years spent at Lima, where he was deputy sheriff under his father who was sheriff of this county, Mr. Bogart has lived on the homestead farm all his life. After leaving Lima, he returned to the farm, where he lived for six years, and then moved to his present farm of eighty-seven acres, about one and one-half miles north of Columbus Grove. He came to this farm in March 1908. Mr. Bogart has a fine farm which is well located on the Ottawa road on which he built a splendid new barn in 1910. The house was already erected when he moved to the farm, but it has been remodeled by Mr. Bogart since he moved to the place.

On May 4, 1901, John Bogart was married to Linda Ritzler, the daughter of George A. and Mary Elizabeth (Daniel) Ritzler. George A. who now lives at Kenton, Ohio, was born at Edesheim, Bavaria, Germany, on August 17, 1843, and came to America in May 1847. Mrs. Mary Elizabeth (Daniels) Ritzler was born at Kenton, Ohio, on September 27, 1846, the daughter of Philip and Margaret Daniel, the former of whom was born on December 11, 1818, and who died, March 19, 1827, and the latter of whom was born in 1818, and who died in March, 1850. George Anthony and Mrs. Mary Elizabeth (Daniel) Ritzler were married at Kenton, Ohio, November 22, 1866. They have been the parents of the following children: Margaret S., born on October 30, 1867, was married in 1891, and has one son and resides at Indianapolis, Indiana; Josephine, January 29, 1869, is unmarried and resides at Indianapolis; Mary E., January 2, 1871, was married in 1894, and lives at Cleveland; George A., March 2, 1873, was married in 1895, and has one son and resides at Indianapolis; Clara B., April 25, 1875, married in 1905, and resides at Tahoka, Texas; Malinda M., March 9, 1878, is the wife of Mr. Bogart, and they reside at Columbus Grove; Florence A. F., June 17, 1881, was married in 1907, and resides at Kenton; Walter F., August 16, 1883, married in 1905, and has two sons; Edwin D., October 21, 1886, is

unmarried and lives at Kenton; Calvin F., September 19, 1889, is unmarried and lives at Toledo.

John and Linda (Ritzler) Bogart have two children, Arlene Elizabeth and Florence Mildred. A Democrat in party affiliations, he is a member of the school board of the township and is active in the educational affairs of the township. He is not a member of any lodge. Mr. and Mrs. Bogart and family are members of the Presbyterian church at Columbus Grove. John Bogart is a congenial man, a good "mixer" and an excellent farmer. He bears a high reputation for honesty and sincerity of purpose.

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### GEORGE HALKER.

There are, according to the United States census report, nearly ten thousand occupations, but there is only one of all this number that is absolutely necessary to man's existence. The three things without which man cannot live are food, clothing and shelter. It is the farmer, who not only controls the food supply, but also holds the clothing products of the world in his hand. His is the only occupation which can exist independently of all others. An increasing number of our best farming men are taking agricultural courses in college and thereby fitting themselves the better to apply advanced thought and modern ideas to the farm. The profession has taken on increased dignity within the past few years and more and more of our young men are applying themselves to scientific farming. The farmer of today has the immense advantage of working with machinery which renders his work free from many of its former disadvantages. Putnam county has many splendid farmers, men who made a success of their vocation before training in the agricultural college became common. Among these splendid farmers of Putnam county, George Halker holds a worthy place.

George Halker was born two miles south of Glandorf, in Ottawa township, Putnam county, on October 28, 1851. He is the son of William and Louisa (Vogeding) Halker. William Halker was born in Glandorf, Hanover, Germany, and left that country for the United States on a pass issued by the German consul, July 25, 1842. He was twenty-five years of age at that time. He came to Dayton, Ohio, and worked about the country for a time and then went to Cincinnati, where he met his wife, whom he later married at Glandorf, this state. After his marriage, William Halker returned to Cincinnati and worked as a cab driver for Nicholas Longworth, the father of



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE HARKER.





Nicholas Longworth, Jr., the son-in-law of Theodore Roosevelt. He drove a cab for Mr. Longworth for three years and then returned to Glandorf and purchased a fifty-two-acre farm, buying out the heirs of his father-in-law. Later, he added twenty-five acres, making seventy-seven acres in all. He added another eighty-acre tract in Pleasant township, where George Halker now lives, and forty acres on the Union and Ottawa township line. This forty acres was sold after his death. He died on April 2, 1889, at the age of seventy-two years, two months and twenty-five days. William Halker was a general farmer and made a success of this business. He is a Democrat in politics and a member of the Glandorf Catholic church. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Louisa Vogeding, was born on August 28, 1828, in Hetsinbrok, Germany, and died on the homestead farm in Ottawa township, near Glandorf, April 6, 1898, at the age of sixty-nine years, seven months and eleven days.

William Halker and wife were the parents of twelve children, two of whom died in infancy: Mrs. Louisa Kemper, who died in 1912; Mary, who married Andrew Schuhmacher, of Pleasant township; George, the subject of this sketch; Catherine, who died in 1873; Mrs. Henry Mersman, of Glandorf, who died in 1883; Veronica, who married William Hoffman, of Glandorf; Theresia, who married John Hoffman, of Pleasant township; Elizabeth, who married Frank Geisken, of Greensburg township; Philomena, who married Gottlieb Buitler, of Ottawa, and Henry, who lives on the homestead farm in Ottawa township.

George Halker spent his boyhood days on the farm where he lived until he was twenty-four years of age. He was educated in the township schools of Ottawa township, close to Glandorf.

On April 21, 1875, Mr. Halker was married to Bernadina Stechschulte, the daughter of Joseph and Bernadina (Kahle) Stechschulte. Joseph Stechschulte was born in Koenigreich, Hanover, Germany, on April 15, 1828, and was the son of Henry and Christina (Poos) Stechschulte. He came to America with his father and mother when five years of age. They spent eight months in New York and came on to Cincinnati, where they lived for a time, when they came to Glandorf. Joseph grew to manhood here and was educated in the township schools. When eighteen years of age, he learned the cabinet-maker trade, which became his life business. He married Bernadina Kahle, June 21, 1854. She was the daughter of John Francis Kahle, who came from Glandorf, Hanover, Germany, with Professor Horstman, and with him walked from Detroit to the present site of Glandorf. Here they

found a location for the new Germany colony. Mr. Kahle settled in Greensburg township, four miles west of Glandorf, and was the first settler in that neighborhood. Joseph Stechschulte died at Glandorf, February 2, 1862.

To George and Bernadina (Stechschulte) Halker eleven children have been born: Mary, William, Amelia, Anna, Benjamin, Harry, Emma, Leo, Albert, Louisa and Philomena. Mary married John Morman, a farmer of Union township and has six children, Cornelius, Adeline, Philomena, Harry (who died in infancy), Florence and Gilbert; William died at the age of twenty-three years; Amelia married Joseph Westbeld, a farmer of Blanchard, who lives near the infirmary, and they have six children, Louis, Mary, Francis, Lucille, Alvera and Lillian, who died in infancy; Anna married Ferdinand Kuhlman, of Owosso, Michigan, and has four children, Rudolph, Alphonse, Irene and Walter; Benjamin married Lanie Kuhlman, of Union township, and has five children, Margaret, Wilford, Elmer, Alfred and Paul; Harry married Agnes Henken, and lives near his father in Pleasant township, and they have three children, Esther, Raymond and Helen; Emma married Benjamin Kuhlman, of Ottawa township, and has four children, Hilda, Leona, Bernita and Louisa; Leo married Rosie Recker and lives on Mr. Halker's farm south of Columbus Grove, in Pleasant township; Albert married Gertrude Mack and lives with Mr. Halker, his father; Louisa is still at home, and Philomena died in fancy.

After his marriage, George Halker removed to his present farm of eighty acres, which he purchased from his father. He added one hundred acres in Union township and ninety acres in Pleasant township, as well as ninety-seven acres in Pleasant township, or a total of three hundred and sixty-seven acres. Mr. Halker has turned over some of this land to his sons. Fifty acres of the ninety-acre farm he has given to his son, Harry, and fifty acres of the one-hundred-acre farm to his son, Benjamin. Later, he sold twenty-five acres of the one hundred acres to Benjamin, leaving a net total of two hundred and forty-two acres which he now controls.

Mr. Halker follows general farming, raises much live stock and grain. He has a well-improved farm and comfortable buildings. At one time he handled considerable live stock, mostly cattle and hogs, and now has more than forty head of cattle. He feeds a large number of hogs. The land which he owns was mostly heavily timbered when he first came to Putnam county. Mr. Halker has cleared the land, drained it and erected substantial buildings. The house in which he lives is a splendid piece of architecture and the large and commodious barn was built in 1886.

Mr. Halker is one of the leading citizens of Pleasant township and has

been honored with many positions of trust and responsibility. He served as trustee of Pleasant township for two terms, likewise he was a trustee of Putnam county's German Mutual Farmers Insurance Company for six years. He is a Democrat. He and his family are members of the Catholic church at Columbus Grove and Mr. Halker has been a trustee of this church since it was built. He was one of the founders of the church; in fact, he has taken an active interest, not only in the services of the church, but in the financial support of it. Mr. Halker was a trustee of the Glandorf Catholic church for four years and helped to haul the stone for the foundation when it was built. He was active in the affairs of the Glandorf church until the new church at Columbus Grove was erected. Mr. Halker superintended the laying out of the new Catholic cemetery at Glandorf, called Grandview cemetery, in 1900. He was a member of the cemetery committee, and the committee appointed him to superintend the work of laying it out. His boy was the second person buried in this cemetery.

George Halker has been a hard worker and is a man well liked for his kindness and sterling character. He is a lover of his home and children and has always been interested in their welfare. The splendid appearance of his farm shows how far George Halker has been a success in his chosen business. He is a booster for all township improvements, open and frank in his business relations and genial socially.

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#### JACOB M. KUHN.

To write the personal record of men who have raised themselves from humble circumstances to a position of responsibility and trust in a community, is no ordinary pleasure. Self-made men, who have achieved success by reason of their indefatigable labor and who have left the mark of their individuality upon the agricultural and business growth of their township, affect for good a far larger community than they suspect. Unwittingly, perhaps, they build monuments that will endure longer than any shaft which might be erected to their memory. Jacob M. Kuhn is a man who has always exerted an influence for good and is well known and widely respected in Putnam county.

Jacob M. Kuhn was born on March 6, 1857, in Richland county, Ohio. He is the son of Jacob and Mary (Shaffer) Kuhn. Jacob Kuhn was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, on November 26, 1824. He lived with

his brother, George, until he was twenty-one years old, his father having died when he was two years old. Near the school house where Jacob Kuhn went to school, on the 26th day of July, 1764, a party of three Indians murdered a schoolmaster, named Brown, and at the same time killed and scalped ten scholars. One of the scholars, a boy, left for dead, recovered and told the story and lived many years afterward. Jacob Kuhn came to Plymouth township, Richland county, in the year 1845, walking the whole way and averaging thirty-five miles a day. He lived with his brother, Samuel, for three years, farming on shares. In the year 1848, he returned to Franklin county, Pennsylvania, on horseback, sold the horse and received about eighteen hundred dollars as his share of his father's estate, walking back to Richland county, carrying his money in a belt and his boots, averaging thirty miles a day. The year 1849, he bought forty acres near his brother, Samuel, and lived with his nephew, H. W. Patterson, until the year 1851. He also held minor township offices, but throughout his life was a staunch Republican, and always took a deep and active interest in politics, notwithstanding the fact that he never cared for office. He was a sterling member of the German Reformed church in Richland county and an active worker in this church at all times. He was one of the founders of this church in the community where he lived and held all of the offices in the church. He gave liberally to the church both in money and services. He died on August 25, 1876, at the age of fifty-two years, after an illness of eighteen months. Jacob Kuhn was married, November 20, 1851, to Mary Shaffer, of Jackson township, Richland county. She was a native of Franklin county, Pennsylvania, and came to Richland county with her parents when a small child, where she grew to womanhood and married. She was the daughter of George and Mary (Detrick) Shaffer, who came to Ohio in 1839 in wagons. She was born on March 13, 1827, and died, May 18, 1892, on the old homestead farm in Richland county, at the age of sixty-five. Jacob and Mary (Shaffer) Kuhn were the parents of seven children, Mary, who died in infancy; Mrs. Martha Jane Coulter, who died at Olympia, Washington, in 1910; George U., who lives in Richland county; Jacob M., the subject of this sketch; Frank, of Richland county; William, who lives in Richland county; and Mrs. Clara Strock, of Olympia, Washington.

Mary Detrick, the maternal grandmother of Jacob M. Kuhn, was born on March 28, 1792, the daughter of Lewis and Julian Detrick. She was the tenth child of a family of thirteen children, seven boys and six girls, and died in June, 1866.

Great-grandfather and great-grandmother Kuhn came from Germany

to Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in the year of 1754. To them were born seven children, five boys and two girls. They moved to Franklin county, Pennsylvania, in the year 1772, and entered a farm that has been in the Kuhn name ever since, Mr. Bruce Kuhn living on the farm at the present time, 1915.

Grandfather Samuel Kuhn was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, on February 18, 1771, and moved with his parents to Franklin county, that state, in 1772. He was married about the year 1798, to Catherine Smith. To them were born twelve children, six boys and six girls. They both died in Franklin county, grandfather Kuhn in the year 1826, and his wife in the year 1842.

Jacob M. Kuhn grew up in Richland county, and was there married. He came to Putnam county in 1887, and settled on a farm which his father had purchased, in 1857, for nine dollars an acre. It was in the wilds at that time and nothing had been cleared. Jacob M. Kuhn's father never farmed this land, but leased it. It originally comprised one hundred and sixty acres, but now consists of one hundred and five acres. Jacob M. Kuhn farmed here until the fall of 1911 and then moved to his present place, just outside of the corporation limits of Columbus Grove, consisting of twenty-five acres. His son is now farming the land from which Mr. Kuhn moved in 1911. Jacob M. Kuhn made all of the improvements on the one-hundred-and-five acre farm and erected all the buildings. He has also made many improvements upon his present place and has one of the finest farms in Pleasant township, and the twenty-five acres where he now lives is a beautiful country home and is well kept. Mr. Kuhn occupies a large and spacious residence. He built a new barn in 1913 and has made extensive improvements on the residence which was standing on the place when he moved to it.

On October 3, 1882, Jacob M. Kuhn was married to Ida Enlow, a native of Richland county, and a daughter of Andrew J. and Mary (Schlosser) Enlow. Andrew J. Enlow was born on August 13, 1826, in Richland county, and died on July 17, 1904. His wife, who before her marriage was Mary Schlosser, was born on August 17, 1831, and died on July 6, 1903. Jacob M. and Ida (Enlow) Kuhn have been the parents of five children, Clara, who married Floyd Bowers, of Lima, and has two children, Mary and Earle; Earle, who is a cigar maker at Ottawa; George Howard, who lives on his father's farm in Pleasant township, married Forrest Stoner and has two children, Kholetta and Kenneth; Mary Lilace, who married Brice Darbyshire, a farmer of Sugar Creek township, near Rimer, and June, who is at home. Mr. Kuhn was one of the incorporators and chairman of the board of directors of the Home Industry Store Company, of Columbus Grove.

Mr. Kuhn is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge, No. 376, of Columbus Grove. He served as township trustee of Pleasant township for one term. He is identified with the Republican party, but is more or less independent in his voting. Mr. and Mrs. Kuhn are members of the Presbyterian church at Columbus Grove. Formerly, he was a trustee of the church but is no longer active. The Kuhn family are also members of the same church. Jacob M. Kuhn is a congenial, sociable man of splendid intellect and is a substantial citizen. He is a man who never violates a spoken or written promise and his word is as good as his bond. He is well liked and favorable known throughout this section of Putnam county.

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PETER A. SCHARF.

A list of the representative citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, would be incomplete were there failure to make specific mention of Peter A. Scharf, a leading merchant, and the present postmaster of Cloverdale, Ohio. Mr. Scharf is descended from old pioneer stock, and is of Germanic ancestry, his people having been distinguished for their moral and intellectual strength, for their high ideals, patriotism and deep religious principles.

Peter A. Schraf was born on November 5, 1866, in Peru township, Huron county, Ohio. He was born near Norwalk on a farm, and is the son of John and Anna (Young) Scharf.

John Scharf was the son of Jacob and Catherine (Miller) Scharf, natives of Alsace, Germany. They came to America when John was eight years old. He was born in 1829, and settled near New Washington, Crawford county, Ohio. He farmed in Crawford county for some time, or, rather, until his death in 1848. John Scharf grew up on the homestead near New Washington, Crawford county, and was educated there. He later moved to Peru, in Huron county, Ohio, where he farmed, and where Peter A. Scharf was born. When Peter was eighteen months old his father returned to New Washington and entered the saloon business for a short time, but he later sold out, and went into the hardware business at the same place. Part of the time he was in partnership with Samuel Myers, and then he bought out the interest of Mr. Myers and carried on his business for about six or seven years, when he built a large brick business block. He had about seven thousand dollars invested in this building, which was destroyed by fire, and he had no insurance. He then sold his hardware store to William Donnenwirth, and then rebuilt the brick business block, and worked for Mr.

Donnenwirth as clerk for some time, to hold the hardware trade. He was here about two years, and had just regained his financial footing, when he died suddenly from the effects of a sun-stroke. He passed away in 1876, at the age of thirty-seven years. John Scharf was married to Anna Young, in New Washington, who was a native of Crawford county, and a daughter of Peter and Mary (Stein) Young. She was born in 1841, and died at the age of thirty years, about 1871. John Scharf was not a member of any lodge, and never held office. He was a Democrat, and a member of the Catholic church, at New Washington, and took an active interest in the church work. He was a man of good business abilities and believed in sound principles of business management. He was very popular and well liked in the community for his sterling character. He and his wife had five children, Peter A., Jacob, Liberatus, and two others, twins. All, with the exception of Peter A., died in infancy. Anna (Young) Scharf was the daughter of foreign-born parents. Her father was a native of Forbaugh, France, and her mother was a native of Metz. They came to Crawford county, Ohio, and were farmers near New Washington. It was here that Mrs. Anna (Young) Scharf was born.

Peter A. Scharf grew up in New Washington, and was educated there. He lived there until eighteen years of age, when he went to St. Francis, Milwaukee, and took a four-year normal course. Subsequently, he returned to Dyer, Indiana, and taught the public and Catholic schools for thirteen years. In 1901 he came to Cloverdale, Perry township, and bought out William Kirkendall's dry-goods and general-merchandise store. In the beginning, William Stretker was a partner, but later Mr. Scharf bought out his partner, since which time he has increased the stock, and aims to have on hand what his patrons need. He has a substantial trade, and is very popular in the community.

Peter A. Scharf was married on July 26, 1892, to Rosina H. Fortiner, who was born on April 13, 1875, near Delphos, Ohio. She is the daughter of Peter and Margaret (Kipp) Fortener. Peter Fortener is a carpenter and farmer, born on May 30, 1830, in Alsace-Lorraine, Canton Forbaugh, France. Peter Fortener is a son of John George Fortener, who was born in Alsace-Lorraine in 1800 and who died in 1866. John George Fortener married Margaret Yochem, who died in 1856. J. Peter Fortener came to America in 1836. He was married to Margaret Kipp, who was born on May 6, 1840, in Tippecanoe county, and the daughter of Rudolph and Mary (Feierbach) Kipp. Peter Fortener was educated in the common schools. He is a Democrat in politics and a member of the Catholic church.

To Peter A. and Rosina H. (Fortner) Scharf ten children have been born: Henrietta Josephine, on June 8, 1893; Aloysius Joseph, January 31, 1895; Eulalia Barbara, December 27, 1896; Hildegard Anna, February 26, 1899; Otto Henry, July 12, 1901; Leo Anthony, December 9, 1903; Lutgardis Magdalena, October 4, 1905; Leonard Carl, September 11, 1908; Eugene Peter, August 12, 1911, and Pauletta Marie, July 22, 1913.

Fraternally, Mr. Scharf is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters, Catholic Benevolent League, the Catholic Knights of Ohio, and the Knights of Columbus. He is a member of the St. Barbara's Catholic church of Cloverdale. A stanch Democrat, he has served as justice of the peace, councilman and as mayor of Cloverdale, as well as township treasurer of Perry township. He was appointed postmaster of Cloverdale by the civil service commission, having taken charge of the office on November 1, 1914. He is a willing worker in the councils of the Democratic party. When Mr. Scharf was elected postmaster he was mayor and township treasurer, but resigned the latter offices for this new work. He is a man of good, sound judgment and a man whose advice has been much sought on legal and other matters. He is liberal in all things and is always willing to assist those in actual need. He bears a high reputation in his community for fair dealing and genial manners. Mr. Scharf has a splendid store and a neat stock of goods, makes friends fast and holds them. He has a fine home and is very much attached to his wife and to his children.

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#### AUGUST REDD.

Well situated on the Ottawa road in Pleasant township, Putnam county, there is a farm, which, by reason of the well-kept appointment and the general air of quiet prosperity which characterize it, not infrequently excites the admiring remarks of the casual passerby. There is something about the appearance of most of the farms and farm houses in this favored section of the state, that strangers, passing through, are wont to comment on most favorably, as indicative of quiet thrift and modest gentility. Among the farms thus marked, there are few in the section in which it is located that is better known than that of August Redd, a brief biography of whom the historian finds pleasure in here calling to the attention of the reader of this sketch.

August Redd was born in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, on March 8, 1860, the son of John and Eliza (Devinney) Redd, the former of



whom was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on May 31, 1815, and the latter of whom was born in the same county on April 12, 1824.

John Redd grew up in Fairfield county, experiencing all the difficulties of the pioneer life of that time, and on October 11, 1840, was united in marriage to Eliza Devinney, the daughter of John and Ann (Umwake) Devinney, the former of whom was born on August 15, 1792, and the latter of whom was born on August 15, 1802. John Devinney died on June 12, 1842, and his widow was married, a second time, in 1846, to August Koch and died, November 11, 1881.

Following their marriage, John and Eliza Redd came from Fairfield county to Putnam county, settling in Ottawa township, where they bought a farm on which they remained for a time and then moved to Columbus. Here they lived for a period of five years, at the end of which time they returned to Putnam county and rented a farm in Blanchard township, where their son August, the immediate subject of this sketch, was born. After farming there for a time, John Redd bought the farm in Pleasant township, on which his son August now lives, and there he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, his death occurring May 14, 1885, at the age of sixty-nine years, eleven months and fourteen days, his wife surviving him many years, her death not occurring until January 30, 1910, at the age of eighty-five years, nine months and eighteen days. John Redd became an influential member of the community in which his latter years were spent and his voice was always given consideration in the discussion of measures designed to increase the general welfare of the neighborhood. He was a strong Democrat, and though not an office-seeker, ever took a good citizen's part in the political affairs of the county. He had been reared in the Presbyterian church and he and his wife were active in the good works of the community, being properly regarded as among the leaders in the section of the county in which they lived.

To John and Eliza (Devinney) Redd were born ten children, Nathaniel; Rachael; John; Putnam; James; Lewis and Ida (twins); August; Charles and John. Of these, the only present survivors are Lewis, who lives in Norton, Kansas, and August.

August Redd was reared on the home farm in Blanchard township and received the advantages of the local schools of that period, remaining at home until the year 1883, when he left for Kansas, in which state he farmed for two years, at the end of which time he returned to Putnam county and married the girl to whom his court had been paid previous to his departure for the West. With his bride at his side he then returned to Kansas, where they made their home for nine years. During this time they were able to buy a

farm in Kansas, which they operated with considerable success, but the lure of home ties was strong and in the fall of 1894 they sold their Kansas farm and returned to Putnam county, settling on a farm in Pleasant township, which they rented for a time, then bought the farm on which they are now living in the same township, to which they moved in the spring of 1903, and where they have met with a gratifying measure of success, being now very well circumstanced.

On October 29, 1885, August Redd was united in marriage to Ada Elizabeth Harris, who was born in Blanchard township, Putnam county, on March 29, 1868, the daughter of Alexander R. and Nancy J. (Crawfis) Harris.

Alexander Rudolphus Harris was born on November 12, 1833, in Licking county, Ohio, and came to Putnam county when he was a young man, about the year 1838, with his parents, who settled in Blanchard township. Here he grew to manhood and on October 14, 1862, was united in marriage with Nancy Jane Crawfis, who, for more than twenty years, made him a faithful and competent helpmeet and who bore him nine children, as follow: Louis Samuel, lives in Alberta, Canada; Edson, lives in Michigan; Ada Elizabeth, wife of Mr. Redd; Anna, married Duff Bracy, and lives in Michigan; Blanche, married Frank Bowman and lives in Michigan; Laura, married Ed Phillips, and lives in Wood county, Ohio; Pearl, married Bon Hissong, and lives at Benton Ridge, Ohio; John, Pearl's twin brother, is deceased, as is Henry, the last born. The mother of these children died, October 20, 1880, and on November 28, 1881, Mr. Harris married, secondly, to Mary Catherine Larkins, to which union there were born eleven children, three of whom died in infancy, the others being: Nettie, who married a Mr. Boyd; Mamie, who married George Boyd; Alma, deceased; Badeson; Dora, who married Edward Walker; Hazel, Catherine and James, all of the survivors of whom reside in the state of Michigan, with the exception of Mamie and Catherine, who live in Louisiana. Following his second marriage, Alexander R. Harris moved, with his family, in the fall of 1883 to Saginaw county, Michigan, where he farmed until his death, February 25, 1911. His widow is still living on the farm in Saginaw county, Michigan.

To August and Ada Elizabeth (Harris) Redd were born five children, Putnam, who married Zoe Smith and is a prosperous farmer in Pleasant township; Blanche, who married Ralph Agner, a Blanchard township farmer, and has two children, Floyd and Etheline; Zelma and Gertrude, who are at home, and Florence, deceased. The Redds are members of the Methodist Protestant church at Riley Creek and are active in the various beneficences of that organization, the family very properly being regarded as among the leaders

in the social and economic life of the community, Mr. Redd being a trustee and steward of the church. He is a Democrat and while giving such attention as a good citizen owes to the political affairs of his neighborhood and county, has never been included in the office-seeking class, though he served for several years very acceptably on the school board of his township. He is a man of congenial habits, quiet and unassuming in his manner, of sterling character and an excellent farmer and good judge of live stock. Mr. Redd is essentially a "home man," a kind father and indulgent provider. He has a good farm and a fine home and is rated as among the most substantial men in his neighborhood.

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#### DAVID CORE.

One of the enterprising and successful farmers of Putnam county who came here when this country was a wilderness is David Core, a native of West Virginia.

David Core was born in Monongalia county, West Virginia, on May 9, 1840. He was a son of Moses and Elizabeth (Piles) Core, both natives of Monongalia county. Moses More was a soldier in the War of the American Revolution.

David Core grew up on a farm and on February 27, 1862, he was married to Rebecca E. Layton. She was also born in Monongalia county, and was a daughter of Peter and Catherine (Lyming) Layton. Peter A. Layton was born at Perryopolis, on the Monongahela river, between Martintown and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Catherine Lyming was born near Cassville, in Monongalia county, West Virginia.

In the fall of 1866 Mr. and Mrs. David Core moved to Putnam county, Ohio, and after one winter in Columbus Grove, moved to his farm two miles northeast of that place, a farm of fifty-four acres that he bought after he came here. The land was still new, no ditching had been done and there were very few improvements made at that time, and only about twenty-five acres had been cleared. Later, Mr. Core bought another farm adjoining the first tract, and though he still owns the first tract, he moved over to the second. He lived there until March, 1909. He now owns one hundred and twenty-three acres. Mr. Core was trustee of Pleasant township for one term and discharged the duties of that office with entire satisfaction. In 1909 he moved to Columbus Grove, where he now has a beautiful home.

Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Core and grew to maturity:

Olive, George W., Layton, Charles, Fannie, Harry, J. Gordon, Ida and Bert V. Olive, who married Daniel Tate, lives near Columbus Grove and has one daughter, Mrs. Nellie Harbaugh; George W., whose sketch is found elsewhere in this volume, is cashier of the Peoples Bank; Layton, who lives about three miles east of Columbus Grove, married Elizabeth Davis and has two children, Arlena and Raymond; Charles, who lives on his father's farm two miles east of Columbus Grove, married Emma Welty and has three children, Vera, Lenna and Russell; Fannie, who became the wife of Lemley Morris, lives about one and one-half miles east of Columbus Grove and has four children, Catherine, Amy, Paul and Mildred; Harry, who is a lawyer of Columbus Grove, married Anna Baxter and has five children, William, James, Imogene, Harriett and George Richard; J. Gordon, who is a traveling salesman for the Pandora overall factory, lives at Columbus Grove and married Edith Miller. They have one daughter, Ethelyn Ida, who died in 1901, and was the wife of George D. McComb and lived about two miles south-east of Columbus Grove; Bert V., who resides on his father's farm, married Myrtle Bowers and has one daughter, Helen.

Mr. Core is a member of the Republican party, while he and his family belong to the Presbyterian church. The Core family is among the best in Putnam county, where they are held in universal esteem. Mr. Core is interested in all public questions, to which he has contributed much of his attention.

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#### DANIEL EMANS.

No review of the lives of those residents of Putnam county who have contributed largely to the growth and development of the county's best interests, would be complete without mention of the life and of the services to his community of the gentleman whose name introduces this brief and modest biographical narrative, Daniel Emans, one of the best-known and most popular citizens of Pleasant township, this county, a man who quietly and unselfishly has done much to better the conditions of his home neighborhood during his long residence therein, and it is a pleasure for the biographer here to present for the consideration of the readers of this volume a short sketch of Mr. Eman's career in the community in which his whole life has been spent.

Daniel Emans was born on the farm in Pleasant township, Putnam county, on which he still lives and where his parents and grandparents before

him had lived, August 15, 1854, the son of Gilbert J. and Anna (Seitz) Emans, the former of whom was a native of New Jersey, born on July 13, 1813, and the latter a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1815.

Gilbert J. Emans came to Putnam county when he was fifteen years old, at which time his parents, John and Sarah (De Mott) Emans, arrived here from New Jersey. This was about the year 1835, and the farm which was unbroken forest, was where the Emans family settled in Blanchard township, adjoining the site of the present county infirmary. There were eighty acres in this tract, which later, as the elder Emans succeeded in clearing his farm, was added to until the farm comprised ninety-three acres, on which the original owners spent the remainder of their lives. Grandfather and grandmother Emans were people of sterling worth, of stanch pioneer type, and their influence in the early development of that section was exerted in every good way, so that, at their death there was general mourning in the entire neighborhood.

After the death of his parents, Gilbert J. Emans bought the interests of the other heirs in this farm and owned the same until his death. Previous to the death of his parents, however, Gilbert had bought a tract of forty acres in Pleasant township, where his son, Daniel has made his home and now lives. This original tract of forty acres was unbroken forest at the time he purchased it, but was cleared, to which was added another forty adjoining, and as this came under cultivation, he also added an additional forty, which he entered from the government and which, before his death, September 24, 1877, he had also brought to a good state of cultivation, making, in all, a fine farm. Gilbert J. Emans was a good citizen, an excellent neighbor and a devoted husband and father, his example in the community in which he lived being of the most wholesome sort.

In the year 1846, Gilbert J. Emans was united in marriage to Anna Seitz, who was born in Pennsylvania in the year 1815, the daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Hiatt) Seitz, who came to Ohio with her brother, David Seitz, in the year 1846, the two settling on land in Fairfield county, which previously had been entered from the government by their parents. It is on this farm, consisting of one section of land, that David Seitz remained the rest of his life, clearing the same and making an excellent farm of it.

To Gilbert J. and Anna (Seitz) Emans were born four children, all of whom survive, Lydia, who married August Clay and lives in Mercer county, Ohio; Elizabeth, who married Benjamin Van Eman and lives in Van Wert; Daniel, who is the immediate subject of this narrative, and John, a successful farmer of Blanchard township, who owns the farm originally entered by

his paternal grandparents. The mother of these children died, March 18, 1899, having passed the eighty-third year of her life, and there was much mourning in the community when she died, for she was a good woman.

Daniel Emans spent his boyhood days on the birth-place farm where he grew up, receiving his education in the excellent school of district No. 1, Pleasant township, and being carefully instructed by his father in the necessary qualifications to the successful life of a farmer, it being determined early that he should follow farming. Incidental to this work, however, he received some excellent training in carpentry and has done considerable work in this line during his life.

Mr. Emans is a member of the Riley Creek Methodist church and is devoted to the various beneficences of that church and active in all its works. He is the present class leader, a position of honor which he has held for some years. He is a Republican and takes an active interest in the political affairs of the county and for some years has served as clerk of the election board. For the past five years Mr. Emans has been practically retired from the active work of the farm, though he continues to give his close attention to the management of the same. He is a good farmer and a man of sterling qualities, enjoying a wide acquaintance and an excellent reputation throughout the county, his earnest and quiet methods commending him to all who know him.

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#### HENRY UPTON KENNEY.

Descended from good old Irish stock and having natural instincts for absolute frankness in their dealings with their fellow men, bearing an enviable reputation throughout this neighborhood for their pleasing manner, congenial spirit, exceptional business ability, and withal for success which has been the result of due consideration for the feelings of others, upright and honorable in all transactions, and worthy of the praise and appreciation of their fellow men, it becomes the duty of the historian to include the name of the Kenney family in the history of Putnam county where they have lived so long and achieved a marked success after overcoming many seeming insurmountable obstacles.

Henry Upton Kenney was born on January 26, 1877, on the site of his present farm, in Pleasant township, this county, and is the son of Norton and Olive (Eversole) Kenney. Norton Kenney was born on July 25, 1846, near Canal Winchester, Fairfield county, Ohio, and is the son of Upton and Hannah (Whitehorst) Kenney, the former's father was born on February 19, 1818,

in Greencastle, Pennsylvania, and was the son of Samuel and Margaret (Hanna) Kenney.

Samuel Kenney was probably born in Ireland and came to America as a stowaway, or may have bound out to work his way across the Atlantic. It is believed that his first place of settlement was in Greencastle, Pennsylvania. He remained here a short time and then removed to Hagerstown, Maryland, where he conducted a general dry goods business. It is recorded that he married Margaret Hanna, in Greencastle, Pennsylvania, October 18, 1810, and to them eleven children were born, Mary Ann (Mrs. Campbell), on July 25, 1811, now deceased; John, March 14, 1813, deceased; Nancy McDill (Horn), February 18, 1815, deceased; George A., December 16, 1816, deceased; Upton, February 19, 1819, deceased; Samuel Alexander, April 2, 1823, of Staunton, Nebraska; Julietta (Huffman), February 22, 1825, of Lovington, Illinois; Rudolph, April 11, 1827, deceased; Jackson, February 12, 1829, deceased; Martin Van Buren, March 28, 1830, deceased, 1912, and Margaret (Kramer) April 25, 1833, of Decatur, Illinois. The wife, Margaret Hanna Kenney, was born on January 4, 1789, and died in May, 1873. She was popularly known and referred to in her day as "Granny" Kenney. After their marriage, Mr. Kenney continued to run the general dry goods business in or near Hagerstown, Maryland, and beside this devoted a portion of his time to teaching school, which he continued to do for many years. He was particularly learned in the subject of mathematics. From Hagerstown he removed to Fairfield county, Ohio, in the year 1823, and at which time the son, Upton, was five years of age. Here he located on a farm, erected a log house for which he hewed the logs and by frugal living and well-directed efforts he managed to accumulate a fortune and died in Fairfield county. Upton remained under the parental roof on the original farm in Fairfield county, and when he grew to manhood he could look with great satisfaction to all the improvements he made on the land which bore the distinction of being one of the finest farms and residences in this part of the county. His marriage to Margaret Whitehorst took place, June 5, 1845, and to them twelve children were born, Norton, on July 25, 1846, deceased; Amanda W. (Hart), March 14, 1848; Martha, February 4, 1850, deceased; George W., April 13, 1851; Herman, March 17, 1853, deceased; Sophia E., September 22, 1854; Charles E., April 4, 1856; Thomas W., August 24, 1859; James F. and William, twins, September 15, 1862 (twin William, deceased); Mary A. (Stemmel), December 9, 1864, and Julietta (Fromme), November 7, 1866. Norton Kenney was married to Olive Eversole, January 11, 1872, and she was the daughter of Henry and Sofronia (Heis) Eversole of Fairfield county, where

she grew to womanhood on her father's homestead farm and received her education in the township schools. She remained at home until a year after her marriage, when her father sold the place and decided to settle in Pleasant township, Putnam county. This occurred in the spring of 1874 and after buying one hundred and fifty-two acres here, one hundred acres of which was in timber, he built a home and continued to farm until about three years prior to his death, which occurred on November 25, 1912, and in the sixty-sixth year of his age. In 1909, he added, by purchase, another farm of thirty-six acres, situated about one mile northeast of Columbus Grove, where he erected another home and where he lived a life of retirement. During his time he took great pride in raising Shorthorn cattle, which he put on exhibition at county fairs, held in the vicinity. To Norton and Olive (Eversole) Kenney there were seven children born, Nellie Florence (Forrer), of Stewards Draft, Virginia; Charles E., who lives with his mother in Pleasant township; Daisy (Mrs. Henry Geiger), of Kirksville, Missouri; Bert and Bessie who died in infancy; Henry U.; Maude Olive (Good) of Pataskala, Ohio. Mr. Kenney was a man whom it was a pleasure to know. In party affiliations, he was a Democrat and at one time held the office of township trustee, in Pleasant township, for two terms. He was a member of the Phesbyterian church as was also his wife and family. He did not belong to any societies.

Henry Eversole was a native of Rockingham county, Virginia, and soon after his marriage to Sofronia (Heis) Eversole, came to Fairfield county, where he settled near the town of Millersport. He had something more than five hundred acres of land which he entered from the government. This he farmed until the time of his death, with the exception of one year, which he spent on a farm he purchased in Auglaize county, Ohio. He died in the year 1850, at the age of forty-four years. His wife was a native of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and came with her parents to Fairfield county. The trip was made by horseback and she, being then but two years old, was carried all the distance in her mother's lap. She grew up on her father's homestead farm, where she was married. Her death occurred in 1872, at which time she had attained the age of seventy-three years. To their union were born nine children, John; David; Maria; Caroline; Heis; Olive, subject's wife; George and Henry, twins, and Miller. The first four and the last named are now deceased.

Henry Upton Kenney with his brother Charles, farms their place in Pleasant township. They spent their early days about the homestead farm and received their education in the township schools. They followed in the father's footsteps and gave particular attention to learning all about the cattle



business and have always made a specialty of raising the Shorthorn breed. Their success in this line has been exceptional and they are known throughout the entire country for large holdings in the cattle business where they advertise extensively by exhibiting the best animals of their herds at county and state fairs. As a side line, they do considerable buying and trading in horses and other breeds of cattle, and are recognized as big shippers in the northwestern portion of Ohio, and splendid judges of live stock.

On November 26, 1909, Henry Upton Kenney was united in marriage to Clara Knapp, of Syracuse, New York, and they reside on the beautifully situated and excellent homestead farm. Mr. Kenney is in partnership with his brother, Charles E. Kenney, and they conduct the cattle business under the name of Kenney Brothers, dealers in fine cattle and horses. They make a specialty of Shorthorn cattle, for sale and breeding purposes.

Mr. Kenney, the subject, is an active worker for the Democratic party, is not connected with any societies, nor does he claim any active part in religious matters, though he was brought up in the Presbyterian faith. Personally, he is a man who bears a wide acquaintance and is well thought of in the community, not only at home, but at large, and is particularly well liked for his fair and square business methods. He is always a booster for the good of the public and always found to take the lead in advancing the interests of citizens of his county and state.

Charles Kenney, who shares the activities of his brother in the farming and stock business, is unmarried and is very popular, energetic and business-like in his methods.

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### CHARLES HENRY JONES.

The purpose of a review is not to give utterance to a man's modest estimate of himself and his accomplishments, but preferably to leave upon the record the verdict establishing his character by the concensus of opinion on the part of his neighbors, friends and fellow citizens. The life of the unassuming gentleman, whose name appears above, has been such as to warrant praise from those who know him best, owing to the fact that he has always been loyal to the trusts reposed in him and has been upright and honorable in his dealings with his fellow citizens, at the same time lending his support to the advancement of any cause looking to the welfare of the community at large.

Charles Henry Jones was born in Pleasant township, Putnam county,

Ohio, on October 19, 1884, and is the son of Philip H. and Arie (Buckingham) Jones. Philip H. Jones was born on November 17, 1848, in Erie county, Ohio, and was the son of Edward and Ann (Roberts) Jones. Edward Jones was a native of Cheshire, England, where he was born on December 3, 1817, and died in Columbus Grove, June 27, 1899, age eighty-one years and six months. He was descended from good English parentage and came to America in the year 1842, first settling near the city of Sandusky, where he was married on November 7, 1842 to Ann Roberts. His wife died on January 28, 1897, being then at the age of seventy-four years and eleven months. In 1850, Edward Jones moved to Paulding county in 1851, remaining a year, he moved to Putnam county, and located on a farm a few miles northwest of the town of Columbus Grove, where he continued to reside until the year 1876, when again he moved to another farm closer to Columbus Grove, at which place he died, after having farmed successfully all of his life. Ann (Roberts) Jones, wife of Edward Jones, was also born in Cheshire, England, on February 8, 1822, which country she left at the age of thirteen, accompanied by her parents, who settled in Erie county, Ohio, near the city of Sandusky, and where she was married. Edward and Ann Jones were well and favorably known throughout their neighborhood and children of the community constantly referred to him as "Grandpa" Jones. In the year 1856, this loving old couple were received into the United Brethren church and ever afterward proved themselves devout and active members. In their home they erected an altar around which the family joined in prayer, it being their idea to instill into the hearts of their children the fear of the Lord, and in this their efforts were not in vain. To them were born ten children, Hattie, who died on June 6, 1880; Annie (Mrs. Bogart), died in August, 1879; Melissa (Mrs. Holmes), died in September, 1895; Albert, who died in April, 1898; Dora (Bushong) of Columbus Grove, Ohio; Edwin, of Bluffton, Ohio; Philip and Harvey, of Pleasant township, this county, and two children who died in infancy.

Philip H. Jones came with his parents to Paulding county, Ohio, and in 1851 removed to Putnam county, where he remained under the parental roof until the time of his marriage on March 10, 1870, to Arie Buckingham, who was the daughter of Nicodemus and Margaret Jane (Niswander) Buckingham. Soon after his marriage, he went to Bluffton, Ohio, where he farmed a forty-six-acre tract for a while, then returned to Putnam county, where he purchased a forty-acre tract, near the old homestead farm, and farmed this place for thirteen years. By frugal living and well-directed efforts he added forty acres to this and then sold the eighty acres. At a later date, he went

to the old Bedford farm, one mile northwest of Columbus Grove, where he farmed for twenty years and then sold out. Purchasing the Daniel Slusser farm on the Ridge road, which he farmed for eight years, he sold out and then bought the Seth Smith farm of one hundred ten acres, which was located about a mile farther west. After a period of one year, he sold out this place and bought an eighty-acre tract in the vicinity of Rockport, Ohio, which he now owns and which his son, Homer, manages for him. In December, 1910, he returned to Columbus Grove, and bought the property on which he now resides. He was not a member of any societies, but he has been a believer in Republican principles and at one time was elected to the office of township supervisor. He is a devout member of the United Brethren church, as is also his entire family. To Philip Jones and wife the following children were born: John E.; Chester H.; Anna, who married Charles McDowell; Prudence Naomi, who married Lee McDowell; Charles Henry, Homer Lee, Hattie, who married Edward Henderson, and Anna. Of these children all are residents of Pleasant township, this county, exception Homer Lee and Prudence Naomi who reside in Allen county.

Nicodemus Buckingham, was a native of Fairfield county, where he was born on May 30, 1817, near the town of Zanesville. He came alone, when a young man, to Blanchard township, Putnam county, and settled close to the county infirmary, in which neighborhood the subject's mother was born on September 22, 1849. Nicodemus Buckingham was a life-long farmer. He was married and lived in Blanchard township for a number of years and then removed to Union township, this county, where he continued farming for twenty-five years, then returned to Blanchard township, settled on a farm close to the town of Leipsic, where he spent the remaining days of his life. He was the father of eight children, Anne (Mrs. Wise), of Findlay; Arie, subject's mother, and Herman, of Ada. Also Mary, Sarah, Thrift, Maggie and Anasy, all of whom are deceased.

Charles Henry Jones was married on December 6, 1903, to Alta Fay Hartman, daughter of John H. Hartman, a full history of whom is given elsewhere in this work. To them two children were born, Noland Morris and Charles B. The early life of Charles H. Jones was spent on his father's farm, until he was twenty years of age, and later he spent a year with his father on the one-hundred-one-acre tract on the Ridge road. It was here that he was married and rented a farm from his father for a period of four years. He then bought the Harvey Jones farm of one hundred and ten acres, which was formerly known as the Smith farm. After farming this place for a year, he sold it to his father and bought the Frazier farm of forty acres, which he

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farmed for about two years, then sold out to Adam Keifer and son, and bought the Michael Bernis farm of ninety acres, which is located on the Pandora road, northeast of Columbus Grove, and where he now resides.

Besides carrying on a general farming business, Mr. Jones gives considerable time and attention to the feeding of large herds of cattle, horses and lambs. He owns breeding mares of the Percheron and Norman strain and has one pair of full-blooded (sisters) stock. The farm is not only a credit to the owner, but to the neighborhood, and Mr. Jones takes great pride in keeping the place up to the point of highest efficiency. He is reputed to be one of the best judges of live stock in this part of the country and is an excellent farmer.

Mr. Jones believes in the old-time principles of the Republican party, but has never taken any active part along these lines. The family devote their interest toward the United Brethren denomination in Columbus Grove. Personally, Mr. Jones is found to be a man of unassuming disposition, quiet and pleasant, and is noted for his integrity of character, his loyalty to correct principles and is honored and esteemed by all who know him.

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#### BERNARD R. UTENDORF.

Agriculture is no longer an occupation which can be followed without special preparation. Taxes, higher cost of living, and lessened fertility of the soil, place farming in the light of a business for which one must prepare either by the lessons of experience or the agricultural college, if the proper degree of profit be gained. An agriculturist who has gained his knowledge both in the hard school of experience and by the study of the newer ideas, is Bernard Utendorf, of Pleasant township.

Mr. Utendorf was born in Ottawa township on February 28, 1879, the son of Joseph and Catherine (Schulte) Utendorf, who were the parents of eight children, namely: Mrs. William Kleman, of Pleasant township; Elizabeth, who lives on the homestead; John H. lives in Pleasant township; Bernard R.; Joseph lives on the home farm, and three children who died in infancy.

The paternal grandfather of Mr. Utendorf was Joseph Utendorf, Sr., who came from Germany and located on a forty-acre tract near Glandorf, which was then in the wilderness. With a hardy German constitution, he cleared his land and made a success of the farm as far as was possible in those days. His efforts were all directed to the realization of a dream of a

homestead for his children. He died on this farm, about 1883. His wife, Mary Ann (Gerdeman) Utendorf, was also born in Germany, and died on the homestead in August, 1882, at the age of sixty-eight years. She was a noble woman and a true helpmeet to her husband. She was the mother of two children, Joseph, deceased, and Mrs. William Ellerbrock, who died on July 24, 1911.

Joseph Utendorf, Jr., the father of Bernard, was born on May 10, 1840, on the family homestead. He obtained a meager schooling, which was all that was available in those days. He lived on the homestead until his marriage and then sold the place to his brother-in-law, John H. Kleman, and moved to his wife's farm of two hundred acres, which he cultivated until his death, on August 27, 1885, at the age of forty-five years. He was a Democrat and he and his family were members of the St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf. His wife, born in Ottawa township, on October 3, 1842, is still living on the homestead, about two and one-half miles southeast of Ottawa, on the township line.

The youth of Bernard Utendorf was spent on the home farm, where he lived until his marriage. He attended the township schools until his marriage, after which he farmed a portion of the home farm. He then bought twenty-three acres of land from Harvey Summers, to which he has added until he now owns one hundred and seven fertile and well-improved acres, the greater part of the improvements having been added by Mr. Utendorf by hard work and the application of the principles of right farming, an example of which is the tiling of an open ditch at an expense of five hundred dollars.

On November 6, 1867, Joseph Utendorf married Catherine Schulte, a native of Ottawa township and a daughter of Henry Schulte and Elizabeth (Uphaus) Schulte, the former of whom was a native of Oldenburg, Germany, who came to America after his marriage and located on a tract of forty acres of wild land near Glandorf. By hard work he put the farm in good condition, and there he died on July 27, 1844, when Catherine was three years of age. His wife was also a native of Oldenburg, Germany, and after his death she was married to Herman Berning, who died on January 14, 1885. No children were born to this second marriage. To Henry Schulte and wife were born two children, Elizabeth, who died in infancy, and the mother of Mrs. Bernard Utendorf.

It seems fitting to tell first of the marriage of the father and then of the marriage of the son. The marriage of Bernard Utendorf to Leona Kolhoff occurred on October 29, 1901, the wife being the daughter of George

and Caroline (Deck) Kolhoff, of Glandorf, Putnam county. Mr. and Mrs. Utendorf are the parents of four children, Martha, Marie and the twins, Bernard and Carl.

Mr. Utendorf and his family are members of the Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic church, while Mr. Utendorf is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio. He is a Democrat, but is rather independent in his political views. Popular, congenial and well liked, Mr. Utendorf has a strong influence as an advocate of modern principles of farming and progressive methods. He is a kind father, a home lover, and a successful tiller of the soil.

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### HOMER H. KEIFER.

While success cannot be achieved without unflagging industry, the futility of effort is often noticeable in the business world and results from the fact that it is not combined with sound judgment. Many a man who gives his entire life to toil, earnest and unremitting, never acquired a competence, but when his labor is well directed, prosperity always follows. Mr. Keifer is one whose work has been supplemented by careful management and today he is numbered among the successful agriculturists of the locality in which he lives.

Homer H. Keifer was born in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, on July 31, 1885, and is the son of Adam and Jennie (Foley) Keifer. His father was the son of Daniel and Lydia Anna (Spindler) Keifer and was born in Richland county, July 24, 1855. Homer Keifer's parental grandfather was born in Berkshire county, Pennsylvania, on January 24, 1819. When he first came to Putnam county, it was a wild, heavily timbered and swampy country. He lived to such an old age that he had the opportunity to observe the great changes which took place from year to year. During his entire life, he was engaged in farming and through the practice of thrift and industry he became fairly successful and accumulated a good share of this world's goods. Daniel Keifer was thrice married, the first time to Lydia Ann Spidler on September 10, 1844, and to them were born five children, Elias, deceased; Elmira (Mrs. G. G. Williams), of Ottawa; Mary (Mrs. Sheets), of Greenwood, Wisconsin; Adam, subject's father, and a child which died in infancy. Lydia Ann Keifer died, June 7, 1873, at the age of fifty-four years and eleven months. On August 10, 1874, he was married the second time to Christiana Sperio, who lived until July 24, 1892, without having given birth to any children. The third marriage occurred on September 20, 1896, to Mrs. Maggie Larrick. Homer's parental grandfather lived to the ripe old

age of ninety-one years and six months, and died on July 7, 1910. In his early life, he was baptized and confirmed in the German Reformed church, but after coming to Putnam county, he became affiliated with the United Brethren church of which he was an active member until about the time he died.

Adam Keifer, was but three years old when his parents came from Richland county, and settled in Pleasant township, where he grew to manhood, received his early education in the neighboring township schools and lived on his father's farm, until the time he was married. He continued to live there until the spring of 1911 when he moved to Columbus Grove, his present home. Adam Keifer had learned the carpenter trade and followed this to some extent, in connection with his farming interests in Pleasant township, and was recognized as an expert mechanic in his line. After his marriage on April 3, 1879, to Jennie E. Foley, daughter of Philip and Mary Elizabeth (Goodwin) Foley, he continued to farm until the time of his retirement in 1911. Adam Keifer is a member of the Knights of Pythias of Columbus Grove, and has always been identified with the Democratic party. He is a strong supporter of the principles of Democracy, but never has aspired to public office. He and his family are members of the United Brethren church of Columbus Grove. Their children are Ily (Mrs. G. Froerer), of Kokomo, Indiana; Homer H., the subject, Cora B. (Mrs. Glancy), of Lima, and two children who died in infancy.

Philip Foley was born in Franklin county, on January 1, 1824, and died on February 17, 1898. Her mother was also born in Franklin county, on August 10, 1834, and died on July 31, 1880, in the forty-seventh year of her age. Her parents came to Putnam county, in the year 1852 and first settled in Sugar Creek township where they remained for two years and until the marriage of their daughter, Jennie, and then moved to Union township where they farmed the remainder of their lives. To their union were born nine children, Jennie, subject's mother; Rosa Ellen, deceased; Mina May (Mrs. Spencer), of St. George, Georgia; Esther, deceased; Marguerite Iona, deceased; Anna (Mrs. Smith), of Pleasant township; Della, deceased; Lula (Mrs. Snyder), of Augusta, Georgia, and a child that died in infancy.

Homer H. Keifer remained under the parental roof in Pleasant township, during his boyhood and received his early education in the neighboring schools. At the age of twenty-one, he was married to Mattie C. Kohli, daughter of Jacob and Nancy (Featheringill) Kohli, and which marriage occurred on September 16, 1906. Immediately afterward he and his wife began housekeeping in Lima, where he worked at the blacksmith trade for a period

of two years, then was occupied for two years as a fireman on the Chicago, Hamilton & Dayton railroad, with headquarters in Lima, after which time they returned to Putnam county and resided on the homestead farm for about a year, then removed to the present farm in Pleasant township, which he and his father bought, and which is known as the Robert's farm, situated about one and one-half miles northwest of Columbus Grove, which farm contains eighty acres and is well situated. Homer H. Keifer makes it his business to carry on general farming and devotes considerable time and attention to the feeding of live stock. Since coming here, Mr. Keifer has made a number of improvements on the place, including the fencing of nearly the entire tract and has ditched about twenty acres. Some new buildings have been erected, and included in these improvements are a large corn-crib and a strictly modern pig-sty. Everything about this farm indicates the thrift and unceasing industry of the occupant, whose chief interests are centered in making this farm a model of its kind. Homer H. has always been identified with the Democratic policies and for the past two years has served in the capacity of clerk of the local election board. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias, Columbus Grove Lodge, and is an active member of the United Brethren church, while Mrs. Keifer takes an interest in the United Brethren church also, of which she is a member. They have one child, Herbert D., born on April 20, 1910. Personally, Mr. Keifer is a man who is well thought of in his community and his loyalty to right principles of living have won for him a place of high esteem and good wishes of everyone who knows him.

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#### HENRY B. VERHOFF.

The routine of private life, although of vast importance in the welfare of the community, has not figured to any extent in history, but the names of men who have distinguished themselves by the possession of those qualities which contribute to the success of private life and to the public stability, and who have enjoyed the respect and confidence of those around them, should not be permitted to perish. Their examples are most valuable and their lives well worthy of consideration. Such are the thoughts that involuntarily, of course, come to mind when taking under review the career of such an honored individual as Henry B. Verhoff, a well-known farmer of Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio.

Henry B. Verhoff was born on July 22, 1869, in Greensburg township, on the banks of the Blanchard river. He is a son of Theodore and Elizabeth



(Egbers) Verhoff, the former of whom was born in Greensburg township, on June 17, 1838, and was a son of Francis and Mary (Kramer) Verhoff. Mary (Kramer) Verhoff was a daughter of Theodore and Gertrude Kramer, who came to this country when Mr. Kramer was about fifty years old. Francis Verhoff, the father of Theodore, was born in Westphalia, Prussia, and came to America in 1836 alone. He settled near Glandorf and was married to Mary Kramer in 1837. He was a blacksmith by trade and followed this occupation after coming to this country, at Chicago, Toledo, and on the Maumee river, which occupation he also followed for some time in Putnam county, where he bought ten acres of land near Glandorf. Here he had a small blacksmith shop. He added to his original purchase of land until he owned a large tract and retired from active life only a few years before his death.

Theodore Verhoff was married on June 18, 1861, to Elizabeth Egbers, and to this union twelve children were born, Frank J., on June 22, 1864; William F., August 22, 1866; Henry B., July 22, 1869; John Theodore, April 6, 1870; Joseph Charles, March 15, 1873; John B., April 6, 1875; August George, February 5, 1877; A. Albert, February 18, 1893; Mary Elizabeth, April 13, 1862, deceased; Mary Ann, March 4, 1863; Amelia Helena, June 21, 1879; Mary Regina, February 24, 1891.

Henry B. Verhoff spent his boyhood days on his father's farm in Greensburg township, and worked for his father until he was twenty-eight years of age, when he was married.

On June 2, 1907, Mr. Verhoff was married to Elizabeth Gerdeman, the daughter of Henry and Bernadina (Eickholt) Gerdeman, and to this union have been born two children, Romanus and Matilda, both of whom are living at home.

After his marriage, Mr. Verhoff settled on his father's farm of eighty acres, in Greensburg township, and here he lived until the fall of 1908, when he sold his farm and purchased one hundred and fourteen acres of land in Union township, and on this farm he lived until 1911, when he sold out and bought his present farm in Pleasant township. This property is located north of Columbus Grove, and comprises one hundred and sixty-six acres. Mr. Verhoff moved to this place in 1913, and here he carries on a general system of farming and stock raising, making a specialty of hog raising, and also gives some attention to milch and dairy cows.

Henry B. Verhoff and his family are devout members of the Catholic church at Columbus Grove and Mr. Verhoff is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio. Although he is a Democrat in politics, he has never been active in the councils of his party.

Henry B. Verhoff is a quiet, unassuming man, a good farmer and a good judge of live stock. He keeps his farm in excellent condition and is a believer in progressive farming. He has always been an industrious man, and has managed to secure a competence for his efforts. He is highly respected by a large circle of friends and acquaintances in Pleasant township, where he maintains his residence. His buildings are all of the best and the very substantial.

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### CHARLES W. DOTY.

In the life record of Charles W. Doty, who for many years has been identified with various interests in Putnam county, Ohio, is shown many qualities in his make-up that always gain definite success in any career if properly directed. The splendid success that has crowned his efforts has been directly traceable to the salient points in his character, for he started in life at the bottom of the ladder. He comes of a splendid American family, one that has always been strong for right living and industrious habits, for loyalty to the national government, and for all that contributes to the welfare of a community, and because of his success in life and his high personal character, he is clearly entitled to specific mention in the annals of this county.

Charles W. Doty was born in Pleasant township, on December 28, 1874, and is the son of Andrew Jackson and Clarissa (Trask) Doty. Andrew Jackson was born on July 25, 1850, in Viola, Greene township, Mercer county, Illinois, and was the son of Cornelius and Cassander (Geyer) Doty. The paternal grandfather was born in Mercer county, Illinois, and left there when but three years of age with his parents, Eliza and Sarah Doty, for Peoria, Illinois. It was there that he received his education and arrived at maturity. At the age of twenty he enlisted in the army for service against Mexico, where he remained throughout the entire campaign. After the war, he returned to Illinois and settled in the town of Monmouth, where he was occupied as a stage-coach driver until the time of his marriage. He then returned to Mercer county, Illinois, where he took up a soldier's homestead of one hundred and sixty acres of land (all Mexican war veterans were allowed one hundred and sixty acres of homestead land). Here he carried on general farming until the breaking out of the Civil War, when he enlisted as a private in Company I, Seventeenth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under General Logan, and served gallantly for the term of eighteen months,

when he was taken ill and returned home. He remained in Mercer county, Illinois, until the year 1867, then left for the state of Iowa, where he remained a year, after which he removed to Putnam county, Ohio, where he rented a farm and followed agriculture until about eight years prior to his death, May 4, 1894. During the eight years previous to his death, he served as a night watchman in the Jones handle factory, at Columbus Grove. He was born on July 25, 1825, and died at the age of sixty-eight years. Personally, he was regarded a man worthy of the high esteem of his fellow man and was a devout and active member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Columbus Grove. His wife, Cassander Geyer, was born on October 16, 1828, and was a native of Licking county, Ohio, a daughter of John Geyer and wife. Accompanied by her sister she left the home of her parents when quite a young girl and came to Putnam county, and afterward she left here for Monmouth, Illinois, where she received her education, arrived at maturity and was married. She died, in 1899, at the age of sixty-eight years. To their union were born eleven children, Katurah, deceased; Andrew Jackson; James, of Pleasant township; Elizabeth (Stevens), of Colorado; Cornelius, of Pleasant township; Steven, deceased; Mary L. (Starkweather), of Columbus Grove; two infants, deceased; Samuel, deceased, and Charles, of Columbus Grove.

Andrew Jackson Doty spent his early days in Mercer county, Illinois, and at the age of seventeen years accompanied his parents west to Iowa, then again east to Putnam county, where he remained with them until 1868. It was here that he married Clarissa Trask, September 8, 1872, daughter of James R. and Lydia (Howard) Trask, to which union were born, Charles; Zoe L., deceased; Lee M., of Columbus Grove, and E. Fern, also of Columbus Grove, where he is a teacher in the second grade of the high school. The father put in a good portion of his life as a farmer, and also conducted a general draying business for twenty years at that place. On December 6, 1913, he discontinued the draying business, and for the past nine years has acted in the capacity of town marshal, in which capacity he has another year to serve. In 1892, he also served the town as street commissioner, which office he conducted with considerable credit. He is an active worker for the Republican party and a firm believer in progressive legislation to the welfare of the community. He is a member of National Beneficiary Union Lodge of Ohio, and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Columbus Grove. James R. Trask was born on December 15, 1833, in Riley township, Putnam county, and was a farmer all his life, except for the time that he was in the service of his country. When the Civil War broke out, he

voluntarily enlisted in Company D, Twenty-first Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, in 1861, and served until 1865, when he received an honorable discharge. During the war, he lost an arm in a guerilla skirmish, near Chattanooga, Tennessee, at which time he was under orders of Captain Ewing, of Ottawa, Ohio. After the war, he settled on his forty-acre farm in Riley township, and remained there until 1871, when he removed to Columbus Grove, near where he lived and farmed in Pleasant township and where he owned a one-hundred-and-twenty-acre farm. After farming here for a time, he moved to the state of Indiana and settled on a one-hundred-acre farm which he purchased in Pulaski county. He sold out this place, at a later date, and finally returned to Columbus Grove, where he lived with his children, and died on January 9, 1895, of creeping paralysis, which is believed to have been the result of the wound he suffered in the Civil War. His wife, Lydia Howard Trask, was a native of Crawford county, Ohio, where she was born on November 6, 1835, and came to Putnam county with her parents when she was three years of age. Her parents settled close to the town of Pandora, Riley township, and she was married in 1852. Except for about two years, spent in the state of Indiana, she lived her entire life in Pleasant township, but is now residing with a daughter, Mrs. Blake, of Elwood, Indiana. To James Trask and wife were born the following children: Clarissa, subject's mother; Emmadelia, deceased; James Oliver, deceased; David E., of Findlay; Ava (Vaughn), of California; Rosetta (Finnegan), of Francisville, Indiana; Marietta (Blake), of Elwood, Indiana, and Wilson, of Chicago, Illinois.

Charles W. Doty passed his boyhood days and received his early education in Pleasant township. At a later date, he went to Columbus Grove, where he secured employment in the Henry Belford Handle factory and where he continued to work until the time of his marriage, on January 14, 1897, to Ama Jennette Featheringill, daughter of George and Alvira (Fruchey) Featheringill. After his marriage, he rented what is known as the Strain farm, consisting of eighty acres, and continued to farm this place for seven years, then he bought his present farm of one hundred acres, which he has brought to such a high point of efficiency in production, that it is recognized as one of the choice places in this community. A comfortable and commodious residence and first-class barns and outbuildings are the pride of the owner, who is regarded an excellent farmer.

It is particularly interesting, from point of ancestry, to observe that Mrs. Charles Doty's progenitors were very early settlers in the United States. George Featheringill, the great-grandfather of George Washington

Featheringill, left England and came to this country in, or about, the year 1790 and settled in the original state of Virginia, where he lived until his death. He was the father of several children, but special mention shall be made only of Thomas and Thornton, the sons who were responsible for the descendants, and particularly of Thomas, who grew up to manhood in his native state of Virginia, and was married some time prior to the War of 1812. In this war, he enlisted for his country's service and was wagon-master for his company, whose headquarters were in the town of Columbus. After the war was over, he returned to Virginia and lived with his family, which consisted of his wife and children, John, Henry and Elias. On account of Virginia being then a slave state and the practice of slavery growing to such large proportions, they decided it was not a good place to raise children. They then moved to Columbus, to which place they were accompanied by the brother, Thornton. In the vicinity of Columbus they farmed, the son John doing the greater portion of the work, while the father and Elias contracted team work. Some time after the war was over, Thomas Featheringill did teaming work between Columbus, Ohio, and Baltimore, Maryland, there being no railroads in the United States in those days. From the three children, John, Mary and Elias Featheringill, the entire Featheringill family descendants can be traced. John, married Martha Ramsey, and to them were born seven daughters and one son, the last named, John Elias, who died when but eighteen months old. The seven daughters all lived to be very old and their married names were: Irinda Fruchey, America Hooper, Barbara Fruchey, Nancy Kohli, Eliza Kohli, Mary Elizabeth Kunnecke and Sarah Viers. Mary Featheringill, the only daughter of Thomas Featheringill, married John B. Bogart, and to them were born: Margaret, Jane, Sarah, Martha, John, Hannah and Harietta. The youngest son of Thomas Featheringill, Elias, married Hannah Bogart, in 1829, and their children were George Washington, William Thomas, John, Irwin L., Minor, Sarah, Elizabeth, Mary Ann, Jane, Marthaa, Emeline and David. Martha contracted pneumonia and died at the age of sixteen; Emeline died with the croup when an infant; David died, January 26, 1863, from small-pox; John was a soldier in the Civil War and was killed in the battle of Chickamauga; William Thomas died when very young; Jane married Fred Fruchey; Irwin L. Minor married Caroline Stanz; Sarah married John Tate; George Washington married Elvira Fruchey in 1853. The children of the last named were Jefferson, Lutellus, Lincoln, Mary and Jeannette, and Marion. Marion married Clara Holmes; Jefferson died when a young man; Lutellus married Laura Palmer and was killed by a train of cars; Lincoln married Laura

Sheets, and, at a later date, married Grace Kauffman; Mary married James Palmer, and Jeannette married Charles W. Doty.

George Washington Featheringill was the eldest of Elias Featheringill's children and came to Columbus Grove, from Columbus, in the year 1833. His first home in this county was located on the banks of Cranberry creek, among the wigwams of the Indians who inhabited that region. Later on, the Indians constructed three-sided log houses, somewhat imitating the white settlers. With Indian children for his playmates, it was but natural that the older Indians would be friendly toward him in later years, and this really proved a fact in this case. For many years, Mr. Featheringill lived within a half mile of his first home and has observed the great changes occurring since his childhood. He well remembered the buildings first erected in the various parts of the county and when quite aged he moved to Columbus Grove, renting out his farms which were east of the town. When his wife passed away, he lived with his children and, on October 2, 1913, he died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Charles W. Doty, being then at the age of eighty-three.

Charles W. Doty has always been identified with the Republican party, of which he is a stanch supporter, but has never aspired to office, does not belong to any societies, but he and his family are members of the United Brethren church of Columbus Grove. Personally, Mr. Doty is "a man well met," and is particularly noted for his droll manner of expression and his absolute frankness, fair and square dealings with his neighbors and others with whom he has business transactions.

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#### HENRY J. UNTERBRINK.

A brief resume of the life work of the gentleman whose name appears above cannot give an adequate description of the hardships he has passed through to gain for himself the title of "successful man," but Henry J. Unterbrink has been pointed out by his fellow men as one worthy of praise for his accomplishments, one who has been loyal to the trusts reposed in him, always upright and fair in his dealings with everyone, at the same time lending his support to the advancement of any cause looking to the welfare of the community at large.

Henry J. Unterbrink was born on September 12, 1862, in the town of Glandorf, Germany, and was the son of William and Elizabeth (Hohenbrink) Unterbrink. The father and mother were natives of Germany and

both were born and raised in the town of Glandorf. When Henry J. Unterbrink was four years of age, the parents decided to leave the old country, and after their arrival in America, settled on a forty-acre farm in Greensburg township, near the town of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. This farm was thickly wooded and required a great deal of clearing, so it was that these thrifty settlers set about their task to make a success of the place as a farm and home. The timber was cut and the land drained, a house for themselves was erected from the logs obtained from the clearing, and today Henry J. Unterbrink can show two of the logs that went to make up a part of the homestead. William Unterbrink and wife lived on this place for some years, then moved to Peasant township, where they obtained a fifty-two-acre farm that was about one-half cleared. On this land they erected a log house and barn, cleared a portion of the timber and set about to do general farming. The old folks conducted this farm until the death of the father, April 24, 1894, at which time he was sixty-six years of age. The mother survived him until February 7, 1903, at the age of seventy-two. She was a hard-working, kind and loving mother, who took great pride in her family, and much credit must be accorded to her for the part she took in the early days assisting her husband. Seven children were born to William and Elizabeth (Hohenbrink) Unterbrink, William, Caroline, Henry, Grace, Joseph and Frank, besides an infant, who died in Germany. Of these, Caroline is now the wife of Joseph Maag and resides in Pleasant township, and Grace married Henry Uphaus, who is a resident of Jackson, Tennessee.

On May 30, 1880, Henry J. Unterbrink was married to Catherine Uphaus, daughter of Barney and Bernadina (Frey) Uphaus, the former a native of Glandorf, born on February 2, 1837, who conducted a farm in Ottawa township for many years. He died, February 2, 1907, in his seventieth year, and was buried at Ottawa. The latter was a native of Louisville, Kentucky, and is at this time living with Barney Uphaus, a brother of Mr. Unterbrink's wife, who is located on a farm in Ottawa township. To Barney and Bernadina (Frey) Uphaus were born ten children, William, who died at the age of two years; Caroline and Henry (twins); Elizabeth, who is now Mrs. Joseph M. Rhinehart, of Seneca county; Barney; Mary, who married Sager and resides in Portageville, Missouri; Philomena; Amelia, who died at the age of twenty; Bernadina, who is now Mrs. Edward Feltman, also an unnamed infant.

Henry J. Unterbrink remained on his father's farm during his youth, received his education in the township schools, and at a later date, purchased the homestead farm from his father. Having made a satisfactory settlement

with the other heirs to the place by paying for their interests, he proceeded to make the improvements which are to be seen today and which mark the place as a strictly up-to-date and well-managed farm. Many new buildings have been erected, special attention having been given to a large T-shaped barn which is modern in every respect. In addition to general farming, considerable effort is directed toward the raising of good live stock. To Henry J. and Catherine (Uphaus) Unterbrink were born three children, Edward, who died in infancy; Amelia and Philomena, who reside with the parents.

Personally, Mr. Unterbrink enjoys the esteem and good will of everyone in his community, where he is known to be a man possessed of a true spirit of congeniality, sincerity, and one who is ever ready to lend a helping hand to his less fortunate fellow men. He is a member of the Democratic party, though not particularly active in these matters; however, he has held office as township supervisor and a director of the school board. He is an active and devout member of the Catholic church in Ottawa, where the other members of the family are regular communicants.

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### JOHN C. JONES.

A life-long resident of Putnam county, Ohio, J. C. Jones has lived such a life as to bring his name prominently before the public. As a county official and as a private citizen he is painstaking and conscientious in whatever he does. As the cashier of the First National Bank of Ottawa he has served this bank for the past decade with a faithfulness and conscientious devotion to duty which has been highly pleasing, both to the directors of the bank and to the public at large.

J. C. Jones, the son and youngest of nine children, born to Cadwalader and Ann (Rees) Jones, was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, on November 3, 1863. His parents were born and reared in Montgomeryshire, North Wales.

Cadwalader Jones came to America in 1831, and was married at North Bend, Ohio, October 7, 1846. A short time afterward they located in Putnam county, where they made their home the remainder of their lives. Cadwalader Jones was a man of much intelligence and imbued with sound principles. He had an excellent education and taught in the rural schools for many years, in which community he also served as township official and in many ways gave high and enduring proof of his ability. His long and cred-





J. C. JONES.



itable services as a church official gave ample proof of his prominence in religious circles. He was a shrewd, keen observer of men and events, an assiduous reader, and he had a mind stored with a great fund of information. He and his wife gave earnest support to the Congregational church. Cadwalader Jones died on September 19, 1881, in his sixty-ninth year, and his wife passed away on February 20, 1894, in her seventy-third year.

J. C. Jones was reared and educated in the township where his parents settled when they moved to Putnam county. Educational advantages were limited in those days, and after completing the course in the district schools he was a student for a short time at the Northern Normal School at Ada, Ohio, and, while still a minor, began to teach school. In his younger days literary and debating societies were all the rage, and he took full advantage of the opportunities which were provided by them. His parents were both thoroughly religious people and he has inherited a strongly religious temperament which shows itself in his every-day life. At the age of twelve he united with the Congregational church, and gave his hearty support to the denomination until he moved to Ottawa, in 1890, when he became united with the Presbyterian church. In this denomination he has served as an elder for several years, and takes an active interest in its religious affairs.

Mr. Jones is a Republican in his political interest, but liberal in his views, and his party has frequently honored him by elevating him to official positions of various kinds. He has served as justice of the peace in Sugar Creek township, and in 1889 he was on the ticket as a candidate for representative to the state Legislature, and again in 1891. He was defeated both times, although he made a splendid race. In 1890 Dr. W. F. Reed, the Republican candidate for county auditor, was elected, and chose Mr. Jones for his deputy, and he served in this capacity for a period of three years. During his deputyship Mr. Jones gave faithful and efficient service in the discharge of his duties. He was responsible for detecting and exposing evidences of official corruption in two of the county offices and, as a result of his efforts, a deficit of nearly thirty thousand dollars was proven, and several ex-county officials were tried and convicted. After retiring from the office as deputy auditor, he engaged in the abstracting business in the county seat for two years, and at the end of that time, became his party's candidate for county auditor. His previous record in this office as deputy made him particularly strong with the people, and after a bitter fight against a large adverse majority, he was elected. He amply vindicated the people's judgment by giving them an efficient administration.

In 1899 Mr. Jones retired from the office of county auditor and spent one year in the real estate and abstracting business, after which he took a position in the Putnam Banking Company, of Ottawa. Two years later, in December, 1903, Mr. Jones helped to organize the First National Bank of Ottawa, and has been the cashier of this bank since its organization. In the bank, Mr. Jones shows the same capacity for unremitting toil and fidelity to duty which has characterized him during his whole career.

The career of Mr. Jones cannot be dismissed without reference to his activities for the public welfare in behalf of temperance. In 1908 he was the chairman of the temperance forces of Putnam county, and in 1914, in the fight for the constitutional amendment for statewide prohibition, he was chairman and the leader of the fight in his home county. He is a frequent speaker on the public platform in behalf of public-spirited measures.

J. C. Jones was married on April 9, 1889, to Sarah Davis, of Gomer, Ohio, the daughter of John R. and Ann Davis, and to this union six children have been born, four of whom are now living, Rowena, Florence, Ann Pauline and Robert Cadwalader. Rowena graduated from Oberlin College in the spring of 1914, and is now teaching in the high school at Vaughnsville, Ohio. Mr. Jones' wife is a faithful church worker and devoted to her home life and family, and is a loving and conscientious mother.

John R. Davis and wife, Ann, were born in North Wales and came to Gomer, Ohio, in 1880, where he engaged in agriculture. He was musically inclined, a good singer, and a member of the Welsh Congregational church. They live at Gomer, Ohio. John R. Davis is now seventy-seven years of age, and his wife is seventy-two.

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#### EDWARD L. McCRATE.

Among the younger generation of Putnam county, there seems to be a goodly number worthy of distinct recognition in a historical work of this nature, and since it is the duty of the chronicler to give credit where credit is due, it is with absolute propriety that consideration is accorded to Edward L. McCrate, who is not only referred to as a leading agriculturist and stock raiser, but, who has won and well merits the esteem and confidence reposed in him by the people of his community. His achievements are the result of concentrated study and well-directed efforts along specific lines.

Edward L. McCrate was born on July 17, 1886, on the homestead

farm in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, and is the son of Joseph and Bridget (Lane) McCrate. His father, Joseph, was born on March 17, 1836, in Tipperary county, Ireland, and was the son of Thomas and Ellen (Casey) McCrate. Accompanied by two brothers and a sister, Joseph McCrate left his native Ireland and immigrated to this country, where they decided to settle in the state of Ohio. Joseph came to Putnam county, in 1859, where he remained until 1861, when, on April 26, of that year, he enlisted in the Union army as a member of the Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. After three months' service, he re-enlisted, on September 2, 1861, and was assigned to the Fifty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, as a private soldier and remained in the service until the last gun was fired on August 25, 1865. During his service, he was promoted to first lieutenant and was actually under fire in as many as twenty fierce engagements, the principal ones being the battle of Shiloh, Arkansas, Post Willis Bayou, siege of Vicksburg, Champion Hill, at Jackson, Mississippi, Mission Ridge, Snake Creek Gap, Resaca, Atlanta and Georgia, and Jonesboro. He was with Sherman on the memorable march to the sea and was among the men who crossed the Broad River on a pontoon to drive the Confederate pickets from the posts of Columbia, South Carolina. He was in the charge of Fort McAllister and participated in the last engagement of the war at Bentonville, North Carolina. His brother, John, was enlisted in the Seventy-ninth Ohio Regiment, Volunteer Infantry, which participated in the battles of Perryville, Kentucky, and Resaca, Georgia, and he was wounded during the battle of Lookout Mountain, the result of which wound caused him to be honorably discharged. Dennis Lane, father of Mrs. Joseph (Lane) McCrate, was wounded in the battle of Resaca and he died from the effects of his wound. Michael, brother-in-law of Mrs. McCrate, was also in the Civil War and was killed in the battle of Nashville, in 1864. After the war was over, Joseph McCrate located in the town of Kalida, Ohio, where he was engaged in the saw-mill business, when, after two years, he purchased a farm, three miles west of Columbus Grove, which he occupied as a home throughout the rest of his life and where he died, February 5, 1907, at the age of seventy years and ten months. On November 8, 1871, he married Bridget Lane, the daughter of Dennis and Mary (Mahoney) Lane, who came to this county in 1858, who was born on June 1, 1851, in Butler county, Ohio. To the union of Joseph and Bridget (Lane) McCrate were born nine children, Mary E. (Mrs. Amos W. Best), of Union township; John J., of Leipsic; William E., city clerk, Lima; Catherine (Mrs. Martin O'Brien), Lima; Joseph C., of Portageville, Missouri; Paul, who is an engi-

neer on the Chicago, Hamilton & Dayton railroad, Lima; Edward L., the subject of this sketch; Mabel, who is occupied as a stenographer in Cleveland; Charles J., who attends school in Dayton. The father's homestead farm consists of three hundred and forty acres of well-tilled and highly-improved land and it is said that no better farm land exists in this county. There are twenty-seven miles of drain tile on this place and the residence is regarded as one of the most beautiful in this county; the costly barn building recently erected is strictly modern in every respect. At a later date, Joseph McCrate purchased what is known as the George B. Bogart farm of seventy-nine acres, in Union township, on which he erected a new barn, and on which place Mrs. Amos W. Best makes her home. In addition to this land, the father also purchased a five-hundred-and-eighty-acre farm in the state of Kansas. These holdings were the result of a life of frugality and continued industry and, therefore, it is not surprising that Joseph McCrate accumulated quite a fortune through the means of his own well-directed efforts. During the war there was no soldier who served his country more gallantly or with greater credit than did Joseph McCrate.

Edward L. McCrate remained on the home place during his youth and received his education in the neighboring township schools, and he also took a special course in agriculture in the State University of Ohio, after which he returned to his father's farm and where he has been active ever since. In addition to general farming he gives particular attention to the raising of highly bred and registered cattle, sheep and hogs, especially to sheep, and his specialty is Shropshire sheep and Shorthorn cattle. Besides being considered a splendid judge of live stock, Mr. McCrate is very successful in general farming, and the knowledge gained from the course he took in the State University has given him a decided advantage in agricultural pursuits. On January 7, 1911, Edward L. McCrate was married to Alice Exelby, who was a native of Lenswee county, Michigan, and a daughter of Walter and Jean (Gibson) Exelby. Her father was a native of Lenawee county and was born in September, 1862, and is still living, at the present time being retired from active farming, which business he pursued almost his entire life. He makes his home in Lenawee county, near the town of Britton, Michigan. He was for many years county supervisor, also township trustee and road commissioner for several terms. He is a supporter of the Democratic party and is an active member of the Christian church, of which he is a trustee at this time. Mr. Exelby is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Britton. His wife, Jean Gibson Exelby, was a native of Antrim county, Ireland, was born in the year 1864, and died in Lenawee county,

Michigan, in 1909. To their union were born three children, Alice, the wife of Edward L.; Hazel, who is now Mrs. E. A. Babcock, residing in Michigan, and George W., who lives in Detroit.

To Edward L. and Alice (Exelby) McCrate have been born two children, Robert E. and Jean Elizabeth, and they continue to live on the father's homestead farm, which, as stated before, is one of the model farms of the county and which Mr. McCrate takes great pride in showing to his friends and visitors. Devoting his entire time and attention to making the most of his opportunities in this place, it is gratifying to observe that this young man is a decided success as a farmer and stock raiser and by the constant exercise of his natural thrift and industry, close application to details and by scientifically managing, he is regarded as an authority on matters pertaining to agriculture and stock raising. Personally, he is a most interesting young man to meet and is noted for his pleasing manner and affability. Mr. McCrate's land holdings include an original one hundred and seventy-seven and one-quarter acres on the homestead. He also owns one hundred and two acres of fine land in the state of Missouri.

Mr. McCrate is a supporter of the Democratic ticket, but has never held political office, does not belong to any fraternal organizations, but is an active member of St. Anthony's Catholic church in Columbus Grove, where his family also are regular attendants. Mr. McCrate is also a member of the Knights of Columbus.

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### JOSEPH J. SCHUMAKER.

No man is great in all things. Many by a lucky stroke achieve lasting fame, who, before that, had no reputation beyond the limits of their immediate neighborhoods. It is the preliminary work, the method, that serves as a guide for the success of others. Among those in Putnam county who have achieved success along steady lines of endeavor, is the man whose name appears above.

Joseph J. Schumaker was born on January 25, 1846, in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, and is the son of Anthony and Gertrude Schumaker, who, soon after their marriage, came to this country from their native land, Germany, and settled on a thickly wooded and rather uninviting forty-acre tract of land in Pleasant township, which, by hard and consistent work, was cleared for farming and on which he erected a comfortable home. Anthony Schumaker was born in 1802, and died in 1877, after having passed

a full lifetime on the homestead. His wife died in 1885, being then about eighty years of age. Thirteen children had been born to this couple, all of whom are deceased with the exception of the subject of this review.

Joseph J. Schumaker received his early education in the schools of Pleasant township, and remained under the parental roof until 1865, during which year he was married on November 15, 1865, to Mary Caroline Wellman, who was born on December 24, 1843, and is a daughter of Conrad and Anna Mary (Beckman) Wellman. Soon after the marriage, they purchased a forty-acre farm in Pleasant township, which they cleared and on which they made their home for twenty years. About this time his wife was taken ill and died on October 4, 1885. By this marriage there were twelve children born: Henry Anthony, October 19, 1866, died on September 14, 1868; Mary Anna, March 30, 1869, who is now the wife of Theodore Haselman, a farmer in Liberty township, and whose life history appears elsewhere in this work; Mary Gertrude, September 8, 1870, now Mrs. Mary Bellman, Putnam county; Mary Catherine, March 10, 1872, now Mrs. Henry Bellman, Putnam county; Andrew, October 31, 1873, who married Amelia Maag, and who is a native of Putnam county; John Ferdinand, January 8, 1877, died November 15, 1880; Catherine Amelia, June 21, 1878, now Mrs. George Webken, of Putnam county; Andrew Francis, March 17, 1880, who married Mary Meyer, of Putnam county; Bernard Henry, August 29, 1881, who married Mary Niese, of Putnam county; John Henry, March 6, 1883, who married Anna Maas, of Putnam county; Elziabeth, September 20, 1885, died on September 21, 1885. Three years after the death of his wife, Mr. Schumaker was married to Mary Ann Rechline (November 8, 1888), who was the daughter of Anthony and Elizabeth (Honamann) Rechline, and was born in Putnam county. To this second union were born three children, Anthony, on October 14, 1889, died on June 3, 1904; Mary Elizabeth, May 12, 1892, and now the wife of Matthew Gerdeman, of Kalida, this county; Katherine Elnora, March 23, 1894, who lives under the parental roof and is single.

Soon after his second marriage, Joseph J. Schumaker sold the original farm on which he had lived and purchased another tract in the same township, containing eighty acres, and, subsequently to which was added forty acres, giving a total of one hundred and twenty acres. This is now occupied as the home place and for general farming purposes and the raising of cattle and hogs, it has no superior. Considerable improvement was necessary to make this farm highly productive, but the installation of a system of drainage and other up-to-date methods, brought the place up to the highest



point of efficiency for the purposes intended. Many new buildings have been erected, at considerable cost, and, in 1899, a barn forty by seventy feet was built. Earnest application to the work in hand, the study of modern methods and careful management, made this farm quite a little above the ordinary undertaking that comes under the observation of the historian.

Personally, Mr. Schumaker, having spent the greater portion of his life in this neighborhood, and attending strictly to his own interests, is looked upon by those who know him as a man of exemplary habits, absolutely fair in his dealings, and one whom it is a pleasure and a privilege to know intimately. He has always been a Democrat, though he does not take an aggressive interest in party affairs, and for the past thirty years has served well his community as a member of the local school board. Much might be said of the two wives who were always of such great assistance and encouragement to him, and, at all times proved most valuable in all of his undertakings. The second Mrs. Schumaker lived until August 20, 1907, when she passed away. The family are members of Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic church, of Ottawa, to which they lend support according to their means.

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#### WILLIAM KOHLS.

Following is a brief sketch of the career of William Kohls, well-known citizen of Putnam county, Ohio, and a descendant of some of the earliest settlers of this county. The family name has been prominent in the affairs of the county for many years and has always stood for that which is honorable and upright in every phase of life. Both those of past generations and the present day have contributed their quota to the esteem in which the name is regarded and each has done his part toward promoting the welfare of the community in which his life was cast.

William Kohls was born in Glandorf, Ohio, on November 1, 1838, a son of Henry and Mary Ann (Kottebrock) Kohls, both of whom were born in Lutten, Oldenburg, Germany, the former on October 15, 1794, and the latter in 1800. Henry Kohls came to America in 1831, accompanied by his family, his mother and the father of his wife. At that time, there were but two children in the family, Catherine and Elizabeth, two having previously died in the Fatherland. One of these was a little son named Arnold and the other a child who died in earliest infancy. Upon reaching the shores of America, the family for a time lived in Baltimore, Maryland, and from

there went to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where they remained but one year. The next move was to Cincinnati, where they stayed for three years and where the father-in-law died and was buried. After leaving Cincinnati, the family settled in Putnam county, and this has since been their home. They reached that locality about the year 1835, and, not very long after coming here, Henry Kohls' mother passed away and was laid to rest in Glandorf cemetery. There were several children born to the family, after reaching this county, the first being John, who first saw the light of day while the family was living in Pittsburgh. After reaching this county, Henry, William, Anthony and Herman came into existence.

Of William Kohls' brothers and sisters, Catherine became the wife of Joseph Kuhlman, who served in an Ohio regiment during the Civil War, and who died while in the army, leaving her with three children, Hieronymus, Catherine and Theresa. Hieronymus became a priest, Catherine married John Kaple and is now living in Ottawa, this county, and Theresa married Joseph Bauhans and lives in Henry county, this state. Elizabeth, an elder sister, married Henry Closterman and resides in Cincinnati. She is the mother of nine children: Joseph; Henry; Charles, deceased; Josephine; Clare; Julia, deceased; Elizabeth; Edward, and Pearl. John, the first child born in this country, married Margaret Hessling, who bore him five children, namely: Catherine; Henry; John; William, deceased, and Bernard, whose death occurred on September 1, 1911, his wife having died previously. Four children mourned their departure. Henry, the first child born in this county, lives at Nashville, Tennessee, and is the father of five children: Charles, Amanda, Johanna, William and Maude. The next child in order of birth is William, the immediate subject of this sketch, and after him comes Anthony, who married Theresa Klinkhammer. Anthony was born on March 2, 1839, and died on August 5, 1878. He was the father of five children: Henry, Anthony, August, Ferdinand and one child who died when quite small. Herman, the younger of the brothers, married Ann von Lehinder, who bore him nine children, namely: Elizabeth, deceased; Louis; Sylvester; Emma; Flora; Cora; Arthur; Ella, deceased, and Philip, also deceased. Herman passed from this life on March 4, 1902. William Kohls received his education in the common schools of Glandorf, and in early life assisted the father in the work about the home farm. In 1865, on May 10, he was united in marriage to Mary Rothman, born near Glandorf, and a daughter of Francis H. and Margaret (Fasken) Rothman. Francis H. Rothman was a native of the Fatherland, having been born on October 10, 1806, in Steinfeld, Oldenburg, Germany, and through the death of his

father, when he was but eight years of age, he was early thrown on his own resources. In early youth, he was a ship carpenter and while on a cruise, was ship-wrecked about twenty miles off the coast of Maryland. He reached Baltimore on November 22, 1833, and from there he went to Memphis and later to Cincinnati, where he secured work on steamboats. He later came to Dayton, and finally, permanently located in Glandorf. In the meantime, Professor Horstman had secured a tract of land for him, containing forty acres, and upon this he settled and set about clearing it and putting it in a good state of cultivation. He was succeeding well in his undertaking when, in 1836, he sent to the Fatherland for his relatives and his mother, Mary Elizabeth, who, accompanied by her daughter and her brother, Herman Anton Rohe, soon joined him. His mother did not live long after coming to this country, passing away on April 27, 1840, and was buried at Ft. Jennings, this state. His uncle, Mr. Rohe, died on May 17, 1855, and was buried in Glandorf cemetery.

About 1830, Margaret Fasken, who afterward married Francis Rothman, came to America from her native land of Germany, and while living in Cincinnati, met her future husband. Shortly before his relatives came to this country, she came to Glandorf to meet him and they were united in marriage on April 20, 1836, by Professor Horstman. The living to be obtained at that time was very meager, but Mr. Rothman was possessed of ambition and industry and soon had a good start in life. Into their little home the children soon came, Frank, born on November 21, 1837, died on April 20, 1893; Anna Mary, wife of our immediate subject, born on December 21, 1840, and Wilhelmina, December 18, 1842, died on July 29, 1912. During his lifetime, Mr. Rothman was active in public affairs and served as county auditor from 1861 to 1865. His death occurred on April 30, 1896, while his wife died on October 22, 1874, at the age of seventy years. Of their children, Frank married Caroline Drerup and upon her death he chose as his second wife, Anna von Lehinder, who died on September 3, 1909. The second union was blessed with nine children, namely: Mary, Frank, Bernard, Emma, Jennie, Colletta, Julius, Arnold, deceased, and Florence, deceased. Frank was a man largely active in the public affairs of the county, serving as sheriff from 1882 to 1886. His death occurred on April 20, 1893. Anna Mary, the subject's wife, is the second child of the family in order of birth, and Wilhelmina, the youngest, married William Feltman and became the mother of the following children: Henry; Frank, deceased; Bernard, deceased; Mary; William; Anna; Catherine; Theresa; Ignatius, and Louis.

Shortly after his marriage, William Kohls took up his residence on

the Blanchard river, where he had purchased a tract of land containing sixty-six acres. There the family lived until 1882, when he purchased a tract of ninety acres, located near his first farm, and there they lived until 1902, when he practically retired from the more active affairs of life and took up his residence in Ottawa, where he and his good wife are passing their declining days in comfortable repose. He still, however, owns one hundred and ninety-six acres of excellent farm land in the county.

To William and Anna Mary (Rothman) Kohls have been born the following children: William H., on December 30, 1866; Frank J., March 12, 1869; Charles E., March 1, 1871; Mary S., May 17, 1873; Jerome, January 24, 1876; Edward B., July 8, 1878, died on October 30, 1912, and Emma P., January 25, 1883. William H., married Josephine Doecker and lives at Akron. They are the parents of seven children, Stanley, Joseph, Mary, Elizabeth, Dorothy, Agnes and Bernadina; Frank married Caroline Alterkruse and resides in Ottawa; Charles E. married Anna Alterkruse and also resides in Ottawa. They are the parents of eleven children, namely: Gilbert, born on January 21, 1901; Francis M., February 18, 1902; Paul W., May 28, 1903; Franklin J., August 20, 1904, and died on February 11th of the year following; Cletus, November 8, 1905; Hugo, June 9, 1907, died June 6, 1915; Rosemary, May 20, 1908; Lucile, November 5, 1909; Donelda, June 2, 1911; Alexa, April 8, 1913, and Charles E., June 30, 1914.

Mary S., eldest daughter of William Kohls, married George Higley, and resides in this county. She is the mother of five children: William, Clarence, Howard, Mary and Agnes. Jerome, who married Elizabeth Earhart, lives in Isabelle county, Michigan. They have five children: Helen, Genevieve, Mary, Richard and Vivian; Edward married Mary Earhart and resided in this county up to the time of his death, on October 30, 1912, leaving two children: Alphonse and Gordon; Emma, the youngest of the family, married Gustave Schwartz, of Akron, Ohio. They are the parents of four children, Frank, Mary, Cornelius and Lawrence.

Of William Kohls' children, Frank and Charles have, through their public services, achieved prominence and an excellent reputation throughout this county. Frank attended the college at Ada for two terms, and Charles studied at that same institution of learning for one term. Frank taught school in this county from 1888 to 1895, and Charles from 1889 to 1897, and another brother, William H., taught school from 1888-1893. For a time, Frank and Charles were in the hotel business in Ottawa, after laying aside their duties as instructors of youth, and on September 6, 1909, Frank took office as county treasurer of Putnam county, which office he filled for two

terms, his brother Charles serving as his chief deputy. After the expiration of Frank's last term, Charles, who had been elected to succeed him, took his office on September 13, 1913, and appointed his brother Frank as his chief deputy. Charles was re-elected in 1914, and Frank continues to serve him as chief deputy. This is surely a most unusual circumstance and throughout their terms of service, both brothers have discharged the obligations of their office in a most worthy and commendable manner. Both being born and reared in this county, where they are well known and count their friends by the score. They are Democrat in politics and are among the best workers that party has in this section. The Kohls family are communicants of the Roman Catholic church, being of the parish of Sts. Peter and Paul.

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#### FRANK W. HELMKAMP.

The nations of the world have contributed their best blood to the population of this country, but no nation has given to it better citizens or more loyal subjects than Germany. The various revolutions which occurred in that country in the nineteenth century, while they were unfortunate for the Fatherland, were, on the other hand, a blessing to America, for, during the time of these revolutions, thousands of the best German people fled to the United States and became eager citizens of this country. No more patriotic citizens fought for the North during the Civil War than did the thousands of German soldiers who enlisted under the Stars and Stripes and fought for their newly adopted country. Wherever a German settlement is found in this country, thrift and progress are sure to be seen. Among the many German families who came to this country in the early days of its history, the Helmkamp family occupies a prominent place. Frank W. Helmkamp, although a native-born American, is descended from sterling German parents.

Frank W. Helmkamp was born in Jennings township on August 18, 1853, the son of William and Anna M. (Wrocklage) Helmkamp, the former of whom was born in Hanover, Germany, the son of Christopher Helmkamp, who was born in Hanover in 1779, and who came to the United States in 1836, settling on a farm near Glandorf, in Putnam county, Ohio. Christopher Helmkamp lived in the latter place for two years, when the family moved to Jennings township, Putnam county, and settled on a farm southwest of Ft. Jennings, in 1838, where Christopher Helmkamp died in 1851. His wife,

who was a Miss Shimmöeller, died in 1857. Frank W. Helmkamp's mother, who was Anna M. Wrocklage, before her marriage, was born in Hanover, Germany, and came to the United States with her parents, who settled at Delphos, Ohio. Here her parents both died in the same year; the father on April 9, 1846, and the mother on October 2, 1846. William and Anna M. (Wrocklage) Helmkamp were the parents of five children: Elizabeth, born on December 3, 1848, is unmarried and lives at Cincinnati; Ferdinand J., July 11, 1850, lives at Delphos; Frank W., with whom this narrative deals; Theodore J., June 9, 1862, lives at Delphos; Mary T., May 4, 1864, died on October 22, 1870.

William Helmkamp was engaged in farming until 1870, when he embarked in the mercantile business, in Ottoville, continuing in this line until his death in 1881. The family conducted the business for four years after his death. The mother died on July 20, 1898.

Receiving a common school education, in 1877 Frank Helmkamp was married to Louisa Schlagbaum, a daughter of George and Dorothy (Hille) Schlagbaum, both natives of Germany. This marriage took place on May 8, 1877. George Schlagbaum was born in Prussia, and came to the United States when he was about twenty years of age. He lived in Cincinnati for six years, where he was married. His wife, Dorothy Hille, was also a native of Germany, who came to the United States and located in Cincinnati, when sixteen years of age. George and Dorothy (Hille) Schlagbaum were the parents of ten children: Barney, Lucy, Mary, Anna and William lived to maturity. Anna died in 1898. The parents moved to Putnam county in 1855, and settled on a farm east of Ottoville. The father died in 1886, and the mother in 1895.

To Frank W. and Louisa (Schlagbaum) Helmkamp five children have been born: Anna M., on March 6, 1878, is the wife of Joseph H. Shuerman, of Jennings township; Dora T., October 23, 1879, is living at home; Ferd G., November 22, 1881, also lives at home; Joseph T., December 9, 1883, lives at Canton, where he is a mechanic; William B., June 6, 1886, is an architect living at Akron.

Mr. Helmkamp is the owner of one hundred and fifty-three acres of land in section 6, of Jennings township. This farm is known as the Maple Ridge farm, has modern buildings and is as good a farm as can be found in the state of Ohio. Mr. Helmkamp has drained it well and maintains it in a very high state of cultivation. He raises a high grade of cattle and thoroughbred Mule-foot hogs. Maple Ridge farm is located about two miles southwest of Ft. Jennings, and not very far from Delphos.

Mr. Helmkamp is a Democrat. He has served the people of his township as trustee for a period of twelve years. He and his family are all devout members of the Catholic church and belong to the church at Ft. Jennings.

Mr. Helmkamp is a successful farmer. He is surrounded with all the comforts of life and has every reason to look upon his career as a success, yet he is public-spirited in everything that he does, and is honored by the people of the community where he lives.

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### JOHN E. DEFFENBAUGH.

Among the honorable and influential citizens of Putnam county is John E. Deffenbaugh, who has here maintained his home for many years, winning a definite success by means of the agricultural industry to which he has devoted his attention during the years of an active business life. His career has been without shadow of wrong and thus he has ever commanded the confidence and esteem of his fellow men.

John E. Deffenbaugh was born in Jennings township, Putnam county, on March 20, 1869, the son of Albert G. and Mary E. (Rohrer) Deffenbaugh. Albert G. Deffenbaugh was born in Sugar Creek township on February 2, 1840, and was the son of John and Anna (Parshall) Deffenbaugh. John Deffenbaugh was a native of Fayette county, Pennsylvania, born on October 26, 1806, and was the son of Jacob and Eve (Everly) Deffenbaugh. He was a farmer by occupation and was twice married. First to Anna Parshall, the daughter of Elias and Nancy (Struble) Parshall. She was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, March 22, 1811, their married occurring on June 24, 1829. To them were born nine children; Nancy, on May 26, 1831, deceased; Jacob, August 2, 1833, deceased; William, November 19, 1835, died on January 10, 1837; Joseph, October 22, 1837; Albert G., February 2, 1840, died on June 27, 1914; Amanda, born April 2, 1842; Lewis M., November 27, 1845, deceased; Emily J., June 10, 1847; John H., December 11, 1849. John Deffenbaugh was married, the second time, on May 27, 1879, in Van Wert county, to Mary A. Stouder, the daughter of Jacob and Jane (Fitch) Stouder. She was born in Fairfield county, on May 27, 1818. John Deffenbaugh was for many years active in public life, having served as justice of the peace for twenty-seven years, county commissioner for six years, county auditor for four years and filled various

local offices at different times, always to the entire satisfaction of his fellow citizens.

Albert G. Deffenbaugh was born in Sugar Creek township on the old John Deffenbaugh homestead and there grew to manhood. He remained at home until the outbreak of the Civil War, when, on the first call for troops, he enlisted as a member of Company D, One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in which he became a corporal. The regiment was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland and Company D was under the immediate command of Captain Taylor. Mr. Deffenbaugh enlisted first for ninety days and later for three years, serving in all four years, lacking four days. He saw much active service and participated in many important engagements, including the battle of Resaca, and retired from military service with an honorable record. After the close of the war, he returned home and, on April 19, 1865, was married to Mary E. Rohrer, who was born in Champaign county, Ohio, on December 30, 1844, the daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Muma) Rohrer. Her father was born in Maryland in 1822 and was killed on November 19, 1866, by a falling tree. Her mother was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1827. After his marriage, Albert G. Deffenbaugh worked at the carpenter trade and also operated a saw-mill with his brother, Jacob. He also operated mills in Jennings and Sugar Creek townships for a number of years, and, in 1873, went to Nemaha county, Kansas, where he remained for three years. Returning then to Putnam county, he settled on a farm three miles northeast of Rimer, where he remained for about fifteen years, and then, selling the place, rented a farm for two years, one-half mile east of Rimer. He then retired from active business and moved to Delphos, where he resided for five years, eventually locating in Rimer, where his death occurred on June 27, 1914. His wife, John E. Deffenbaugh's mother, came with her parents to Putnam county when a girl, the family settling one mile north of Rimer, in Jennings township, and there she resided until her marriage. To her parents were born eleven children, Mary E.; Sarah A.; Jacob C. and John H., twins; Daniel W.; William J.; Franklin P.; Samuel; Susan C.; Charles and Emma Jane. To Albert G. and Mary E. (Rohrer) Deffenbaugh were born seven children, Asa E., John E.; Louis S., deceased; Ada E.; Roy C.; Lizzie M., deceased, and William B.

John E. Deffenbaugh was reared in Jennings and Sugar Creek townships, with the exception of three years, when the family resided in Kansas, and he received his education in the common schools. After attaining his majority, he entered into the machinery business and has operated a



thrashing machine, a well-drilling machine and other mechanical lines in which he has met with splendid success. After his marriage, in 1892, Mr. Deffenbaugh spent two years on his grandfather's homestead and then moved to Columbus Grove, where he resided one year. Later, he returned to Rimer, where he has resided ever since. He has been successful in whatever he has undertaken and has earned the regard of all who know him.

On April 14, 1892, Mr. Deffenbaugh was united in marriage to Mollie Wood, who was born in Allen county, December 13, 1867, the daughter of Sanford B. and Susan (Trice) Wood. To this union have been born three children: Luda D., on April 4, 1894; Ada M., September 12, 1895; and a son who died at birth.

Mr. Deffenbaugh is a Democrat and has long been known as one of the influential citizens of his locality. His religious affiliations are with the Ottawa River Christian church, in which he is prominent, being the president of the ministerial committee and choir leader. Mrs. Deffenbaugh is also an interested member of this denomination. Mr. Deffenbaugh, is in the fullest sense of the term, a progressive, self-made American, thoroughly in harmony with the spirit of the advanced age in which he lives, conducting all of his business matters carefully and systematically and in all of his acts displaying an aptitude for successful management. A sympathetic and broad-minded man, he has a host of warm and admiring friends and is numbered among the truly progressive men of his community.

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#### CHARLES H. HUFFMAN.

The decrease in the number of persons engaged in agriculture—the number of food producers—is striking. Since 1880 there has been a steady decline from forty-four and four-tenths per cent. to thirty-two and nine-tenths per cent. in 1910. The percentage of professional people has shown a slight gain, and the percentage of persons in domestic and personal service shows a considerable falling off in the last decade, amounting in all to five and two-tenths per cent. On the contrary, the percentage of persons engaged in mechanical and manufacturing pursuits who are non-producers wholly of the raw materials for food, increased from twenty-one and eight-tenths per cent. in 1880 to twenty-eight and three-tenths per cent. in 1910. More striking still is the deduction from these figures that, whereas, in 1880, there were forty-four and four-tenths per cent. of the population to feed a re-

mainder of fifty-five and six-tenths per cent., in 1910 there was only thirty-two and nine-tenths per cent. of the working population to feed a remainder of sixty-seven and one-tenth per cent. For some reason the active and successful farmers have been moving into the small towns and into the cities. Charles H. Huffman, a well-known auctioneer of Putnam county, Ohio, and who for many years was a successful farmer of Sugar Creek township, is one of those farmers who have lately removed to town, and who is now following exclusively the profession which he formerly followed incidentally, while living on the farm.

Charles H. Huffman, formerly a well-known farmer and for many years a well-known auctioneer of Putnam county, was born in Springfield, Ohio, on June 20, 1868. He is the son of Frederick and Mary (Eickhoff) Huffman. Frederick Huffman was born in Germany on May 17, 1833, and was the son of William Huffman and wife. William Huffman was a farmer in Germany, where he owned a farm. He was the father of five sons and one daughter. Frederick, the father of Charles H.; Christian; William; Henry; Charles, and Elizabeth. All of these children came to America. The only surviving members of the family is Frederick, the father of Charles H.

Frederick Huffman came to America at the age of twenty in July, 1853, making the voyage on a sailing vessel in forty-eight days. He came first to Ohio, and located in Dayton, where he was employed on the farm. He remained there for a year or two, and then removed to Greene county, where he continued to work on the farm for three or four years. He then engaged in the grocery business in Springfield for several years. At the age of thirty years, in March, 1864, he was married to Mary Eickhoff, who was born near Dayton, on March 28, 1847. She was the daughter of Henry Eickhoff and wife, both of whom were natives of Hanover, Germany. The former was a farmer. He came to America shortly after their marriage and settled near Dayton, where, shortly afterwards, his daughter Mary was born. Two weeks later, her mother died, and Henry Eickhoff was later married to Dora Huffman. By this second union there were eight children, three sons and five daughters. Henry Eickhoff lived and died on the eighty-acre farm near Dayton, which was the birthplace of Mr. Huffman's mother. She grew to womanhood on this farm and here remained until her marriage.

Frederick Huffman, after his marriage, moved to Tiptecanoe, Miami county, and there engaged in teaming. Later, he rented a farm and resided in Tiptecanoe for several years. In the fall of 1882, he moved to Sugar Creek township, where he rented two different farms. Five years afterward he moved to Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, and spent one year,

one and one-half miles north of Vaughnsville, and then moved to a farm one and one-half miles southeast of that place. Here he resided on the old Michael farm for nine years, or until 1897, when he purchased forty acres of the old John Slusser farm, where he now resides. Frederick Huffman and wife are members of the Christian church. He is a Democrat in politics. Frederick and Mary (Eickhoff) Huffman have had nine children, four of whom died in infancy. William died on May 12, 1913; Charles H. is the subject of this sketch; Dora is still living; Matilda is the wife of J. H. Purnell and Albert is still living.

Charles H. Huffman was born in Springfield, Ohio, and spent his childhood in that city and in Miami county. The latter part of his youth was spent in Allen county. After finishing the common schools he helped his father on the farm and remained with him until about thirty-two years of age. The following three years he was engaged in the machine business in Ottawa and Columbus Grove.

At the age of thirty-five, or on March 18, 1903, Mr. Huffman was married to Emma Smith, who was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, on November 1, 1875, and who was the daughter of James F. and Eliza (Slusser) Smith. The former was born in Putnam county on May 10, 1843, and was a son of James Smith and wife. James Smith was a native of Virginia, who came to Putnam county at an early day. The reader is here referred to the parental history of the Smith family, found in the sketch of Charles Smith, a grandson of James Smith, contained elsewhere in this volume. Eliza Slusser was born in Shelby county, Ohio, on January 7, 1845, and died on December 16, 1907. She came with her parents to Putnam county as a child and here lived until her marriage. With the exception of about one year in Allen county, she spent the remainder of her life in Putnam county. James F. and Elizabeth (Slusser) Smith had eleven children, ten of whom lived to maturity and still survive. They are as follows: Ira; James and Joseph, twins; Alice; Benjamin; Emma, the wife of Mr. Huffman; Ida; Anna, who died on October 3, 1895, at the age of fifteen; Luella; Jennie, and Jesse.

Mrs. Emma Huffman spent her girlhood on the old Smith homestead until a short time before her marriage, when she removed to Columbus Grove.

After his marriage, Mr. Huffman continued to work in the machine business at Columbus Grove for about five years. He then moved to a farm of eighty acres, one and one-half miles north and east of Vaughnsville. This farm he bought two years previously. Mr. Huffman remained on the farm

for about five years, which is improved by a commodious seven-room residence and a large modern barn, forty by eighty feet. It has a cattle barn also, seventy-eight by thirty-two feet, and other buildings in keeping with the surroundings. Mr. Huffman was engaged in general farming and paid especial attention to hogs and horses. In January, 1914, Mr. and Mrs. Huffman removed to Vaughnsville, where he now resides. In addition to his other interests, Mr. Huffman has been an auctioneer for the past sixteen or seventeen years. He has been very successful in this profession.

Charles H. and Emma (Smith) Huffman have one child, Herbert Harry, born on July 18, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Huffman attend the Christian church. Mrs. Huffman is a member of this church. Mr. Huffman is a Democrat. He was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for sheriff in Putnam county, in 1914. Fraternally, he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and belongs to Rufus Lodge No. 364. He is a member of Columbus Grove Lodge No. 464, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and Vaughnsville Lodge No. 711, Knights of Pythias. He is also a member of the Improved Order of Red Men at Kalida. Charles H. Huffman is a prominent, influential citizen throughout this section of Putnam county. He is also well known in adjoining counties in his professional capacity.

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#### FRANK W. RUEN.

There is no occupation which gives a man the independence of life and which brings him closer to nature than does farming. In pioneer times, farmers found their work very much of a drudgery, but with all modern improvements, the farmer is relieved of much of the hard work which was the portion of his forefathers. Farming has arisen in dignity until now it is often referred to as a profession rather than as an occupation. Fifty years the science of agriculture was in its infancy, and to think that a man was compelled to take a course in college in order to succeed as a farmer was absurd, yet today our colleges are teaching agriculture as a science and are turning out thousands of young men who are well trained in the scientific methods of farming. Putnam county is one of the oldest counties in the state, consequently has many fine farms and good farmers within its borders. Among the enterprising and progressive farmers of Putnam county there is none who stands higher in the esteem of his fellow citizens than does Frank W. Ruen, of Monterey township.

Frank W. Ruen was born in Monterey township, Putnam county, Ohio,

September 2, 1878. He is a son of William and Sybilla (Furst) Ruen. William Ruen was a native of Germany, born in 1824, and on November 1, 1914, was ninety years of age. Hale, hearty and in good health. The oldest resident in Putnam county, he is deeply interested in the great war in the old country. Each day he reads the newspapers, carefully following each succeeding event in the great struggle for supremacy. William Ruen served under Frederick William in 1848 against the Revolutionists, and as a consequence realizes to the full the significance of this great clash of the nations. He came to the United States and located first in Cincinnati in 1860, where he lived until 1862, when he was married to Freda Honerbaum. They were the parents of four children, three of whom are still living, Anton, the first-born, died at the age of forty-two, at Granite City, Illinois; William, Jr., lives at Cloverdale, Putnam county; Henry lives at Ottoville and Mary is the wife of John Furst, living near Ottoville on a farm. After the marriage of William Ruen, he came to Putnam county and settled in Monterey township, where he worked for one year for William Reckart. He then purchased forty acres of land in section 19, of Monterey township. Mrs. Ruen died about 1875, and subsequently, William Ruen married Sybilla Furst, to which union five children were born, three of whom are still living, Frank W., the eldest; Theresa, who died at the age of six weeks; Paul, who died at the age of two years; Anna, the wife of Gustavus Trenkamp, of Monterey township; Addie, the wife of Joseph Schmersal, of Greensburg township. The mother of these children died on July 23, 1896. William Ruen now lives with his son, Frank W.

Frank W. Ruen received a common-school education and when he was about twenty-five years old, took possession of his father's farm. He has improved this place by building a barn and other outbuildings, suitable for modern farming. The house has also been remodeled, and he now has a very attractive and pleasant home. Mr. Ruen makes a specialty of thoroughbred Hampshire hogs, as well as a very high grade of other live stock, and has been very successful in his efforts in this line.

Frank W. Ruen was married on June 7, 1904, to Mary Schlagbaum, a daughter of Barney and Clara (Grewe) Schlagbaum. Barney Schlagbaum was born in Cincinnati. His wife was a native of Germany, and came with her parents, when a girl of six years, to America. Barney Schlagbaum and his wife are still living in Monterey township.

To Frank W. and Mary (Schlagbaum) Ruen four children have been born, all of whom are living, Alex, on January 28, 1906; Helen, May 9, 1909; Martha, September 25, 1913, and Marcella, February 11, 1915.

Mr. Ruen and his family are all members of the Catholic church of Ottoville. He is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio, and in politics is a Democrat. He was elected for the first term as trustee of Monterey township in 1912, and so efficient was his service that he was re-elected in 1914. He is now serving as president of the township board. Frank W. Ruen is a man of more than average influence in his community. He is highly respected for his native interest in all good works and is a valuable citizen of any community.

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### CHARLES HENRY MEYER.

When a man is referred to by his fellow men as an industrious, upright, honorable and progressive citizen of the community in which he lives, and is regarded a success in life by his neighbors, it is then that the chronicler of worth-while events begins an investigation and determines, in his own mind, whether or not great credit is due. As a caption for this review, we have the name of a man who stands for everything in the advancement and welfare of the people and whose personal achievements are worthy of mention in a historical work, where they can be referred to by the coming generation.

Charles Henry Meyer was born in Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, September 16, 1871, and is the son of George H. and Mary (Schroeder) Meyer. His father was a native of Putnam county, Ottawa township, and was born on his father's farm on February 7, 1846, where he grew to manhood and received his early education in the township schools. The original farm contained eighty acres in Liberty township, and was always considered a good piece of land for general farming purposes. George H. Meyer is still living and resides on this farm, to which he added more land from time to time, the total of which was two hundred eleven acres and from which eighty acres was sold by him to the subject of this sketch. The father's homestead is situated in Liberty township, and the eighty acres which was sold lies in Pleasant township, this county. The father has continued farming all of his life and is considered a man of sterling quality, honesty and good business ability, industrious and interested in the welfare of the community. He served on the school board for a number of years, and was elected to the office of township supervisor, in which capacity he served for several years, to the satisfaction of the people interested. Religiously, he is an active member of the Catholic church in New Cleveland, Ohio, and

of which his family are devout members. Mr. Meyer's mother was a native of Greensburg township, this county, being the daughter of Charles Schroeder, and was born on April 23, 1852. She was married in November, 1870, to subject's father and is still living. To their union were born thirteen children, as follow: Charles Henry, Mary (Mrs. Kuhlman), of Blanchard township; Theodore, of Blanchard township; Anna (deceased), Tracy (Mrs. Edward Kuhlman), of Ottawa township; Katherine (Mrs. Barney Kettles), of Ottawa township; John, who lives in North Dakota; Benjamin, of Blanchard township; Fronia (Mrs. Frank Schmiedebusch), of Liberty township; Agnes (Mrs. John Schmenk), of Blanchard township; Hiram, Andrew and Edward, the last two named are living on the homestead farm.

Charles H. Meyer spent his early boyhood days about his father's farm in Ottawa township and received his education in the township schools. He assisted in clearing the original tract and made himself generally useful thereon, until after the time of his marriage, when he purchased eighty acres from his father and began the erection of a home for himself and family, including the necessary barn and outbuildings, and otherwise improved the place for general farming purposes. This land required considerable ditching and draining and has been cleared, with the exception of ten acres of standing timber. The home is a modern brick structure, both commodious and comfortable, and gives the observer an impression of prosperity.

Mr. Meyer's marriage to Anna Ellerbrock took place October 14, 1896. She was the daughter of Ferdinand and Thracia (Klemm) Ellerbrock, the former having come to this country from Germany, with his parents when he was a lad of seven years of age. The parental grandparents, Theodore and Catherine (Trocke) Ellerbrock, coming to this country from Germany, settled near the town of Glandorf, Ohio, on forty acres of wild and uncleared land and worked on the canal which was nearby. Ferdinand Ellerbrock remained on this original forty acres and to which he added forty acres more prior to his death, on December 25, 1914, at the age of eighty-two years. He proved himself a good, substantial farmer and was highly esteemed by those who knew him, being noted for honesty and integrity of character; he was a true German, kind and loving, and a good provider for his family. His wife was a native of Ottawa township, this county, and a daughter of Henry and Catherine (Gerdeman) Klemm. To them were born eleven children, Catherine (Mrs. Meyer, deceased), Mary (Mrs. Barney Schmenk, Liberty township), Elizabeth (Mrs. Joseph Meyer, Liberty township), Theodore (deceased), Joseph, of Pleasant township; Andrew, who lives on the home place; Anna (subject's wife), born November 19, 1875;

Tracey (Mrs. Theodore Meyers, Blanchard township); Benjamin, who lives on the home place; Lucy (Mrs. Henry F. Weiss, Ottawa township), and Agnes (Mrs. Anthony Weiss, of Ottawa township). To the marriage of Charles Henry Meyer and wife have been born the following children: Henry, Martha, Francis (a deceased infant), Mary, Agnes, Clara (a deceased infant), and Alfred.

Politically, Mr. Meyer is a Democrat but he has never had aspirations to hold an office, though, previous to his resignation in 1910, he had served on the local school board for ten years. He gives his support to the Catholic religion and the family are regular members of the church of that denomination in Columbus Grove. Personally, Mr. Meyer is a hard worker and is well thought of in the community; he is a firm believer in modern farming methods, and gives considerable study to machinery inventions for the saving of labor on the farm. He does not belong to societies of any kind, but is glad to consider every worthy fellow man as a brother and to render assistance to those who need it.

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#### FRANK H. DOEPKER.

The vocation of blacksmith has ever been a prominent one in the industries of this country and from the trade of the blacksmith has come the "arm and hammer" familiar to all, symbol of strength and honesty. One of the prominent citizens of Putnam county who is engaged in this occupation is Frank H. Doepker, who, because of his skill in his chosen vocation, is well known throughout this and adjoining counties.

Frank H. Doepker was born in Glandorf, this county, on April 8, 1867, a son of Joseph F. and Mary (Marmon) Doepker. Joseph F., father of Frank H., was a native of Germany, born in Glandorf, near Osuabrick, on November 12, 1836, and he emigrated to this country when a youth of sixteen years. He had received a good education in his native land, for a youth of his years and, almost immediately upon reaching the shores of this country, he came to Putnam county, Ohio, and took up his residence in Glandorf. At that time that town was comparatively young, having been settled by a colony of Germans, under the leadership of the renowned Father Horstman. Near Glandorf, Joseph F. engaged in farming and about the time of the beginning of the Civil War, together with an uncle, named Maag, he took up government land, about one and one-half miles north of Ottawa, this



county. There he remained for four years, at which time he moved to Ottawa and engaged in teaming and trucking. After several years spent in this manner, during which time he acquired a competency but suffered the loss of his health, he moved to Akron, this state, where he has since made his home with a daughter.

Joseph H. Doecker was married to Mary Marmon, who was born in this county in 1839, and whose death occurred in September, 1882. She was a daughter of Anton and Dorothy (Trent) Marmon, both natives of Germany, who were married in Hanover and in 1835 emigrated to this country, bringing with them their family of six little children. They located in Glandorf within a year after its settlement, and for a time the father worked on the construction of a canal in this county and, later, took up farming, purchasing the farm where John Marmon now lives, and passed much of his life there. This was virgin soil when he first obtained possession of it and the family endured the hardships and privations of the pioneer of that day. They cleared the land, erected the small cabin of pioneer days, cooked in the fire-place in winter and out of doors in summer, wove the materials for their own clothing, and in spite of all the hard work managed somehow to secure education and make for themselves some social intercourse with adjoining neighbors. There were nine children in all in the family. Those born in Germany were: Henry, William, Joseph, Christian, Frederick and Frank, and after settling in this county John, Mary (mother of Frank H.), and Bernadina, came to join the family circle. The father passed from this life in 1875 and the mother remained with the children until 1892, when she, too, laid aside the burden of the flesh. Both were devout members of the Catholic church, being of the parish of St. John, at Glandorf.

Joseph Doecker is the eldest member of the family, Frank H. being the second eldest, the other children being William, Josephine, John, Addie and Margaret. Joseph married Mary Konst, who has borne him three children, Mark, Lawrence and Irma. Josephine became the wife of William Kohls and has seven children; Stanislaus, deceased; Joseph, Mary, Elizabeth, Dorothy, Agnes and Gertrude. John chose as his life companion Mary Horstman and their children are Cornelius, Norman, Mary, Arnold, Elnora, Delphinus, Edward and Dorothy. Addie became the wife of Charles Robernalt and Margaret remains single.

Frank, our subject, received his education in the common schools of Putnam county and, after leaving school he secured employment in a wheel factory, where he remained for about six years. By that time, he had de-

cided that in that line there was nothing in store for him in the future, and, possessing ambition to secure a competence for himself in the world, he decided the best course to pursue was to apprentice himself to a trade. Accordingly, he selected that of blacksmithing as his life's vocation and in 1888 became an apprentice to this trade. He served for four years, when he embarked in business in partnership with his brother, Joseph. This partnership continued throughout fourteen years, when his brother retired from the firm and was succeeded by Frederick Lory and, later, by Mathias Schmenk, who is still a partner, the firm style now being Doepker & Schmenk. Throughout the years the business has been so conducted as to win the good will and patronage of the farmers throughout a large section.

Mr. Doepker's marriage took place on November 20, 1896, when he was united in wedlock with Katherine Noon, of Miller City, this county. She is a daughter of Patrick and Mary Noon, both natives of the Emerald Isle, who, emigrating to this country, located near Columbus, in Franklin county, this state. They remained there but a comparatively short time, however, and forty-one years ago came to Putnam county, where they engaged in farming. Their children are: Patrick, John, Elizabeth, Cecelia and Delia, Thomas and Mary. Thomas first married Abbie Perky and, after her death, chose Emma Mann as his second wife. He is the father of five children, Elizabeth, Edward, Philip, Charles and Wilfred. Mary became the wife of Daniel Dangler and the mother of five children, Effie, Chester, Irvin, Homer and Lucile; Patrick married Hattie Robinson and his children are Harry, Elmer, Alvera and an infant son; John chose Mary Wagner as his wife, who bore him the following children, Anna, deceased; Albert, May, deceased; Arthur, Edna and Lawrence; Edward married Josephine Rech-tine and has one child, Lucile; Cecelia is the wife of Frank Kerner and the mother of Mary Agnes, Cornelius and Loretta; Delia became the wife of Thomas Ducey and is without children.

Frank H. and wife are the parents of the following children: Lillian, born on February 12, 1896, who, after completing her high school course, fitted herself for a teacher and is now teaching in the school at Kiefersville; Arthur, born on June 16, 1898, remains at home and assists his father in the blacksmith business, and Mary Elizabeth, born on January 12, 1906.

Mr. Doepker is a progressive man in his business, his establishment being equipped with all modern devices. The mechanical section of the shop is operated by electricity and he also owns one of the latest acetylene welding devices. The business is a successful venture, due largely to his untiring industry and excellent workmanship. He holds his religious membership

with the Catholic church and his fraternal affiliation with the Modern Woodmen and Catholic Knights of Ohio. He is a Democrat in politics, but exercises independent views in such matters. The family is considered among the most substantial and most highly respected of this county.

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### BERNARD LEOPOLD.

One of the best-remembered business men and farmers of the past generation in Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, was the late Bernard Leopold. Of Mr. Leopold, personally, it may be said that he was a man of strong and active sympathy; his temperament was warm and ardent, his feelings deep and intense. These and other characteristics unconsciously drew him an unusual number of devoted friends, upon whom, in all circumstances, he could rely and who, now that he has passed from earthly scenes, revere his memory. He was a close student of human nature and comprehended, with little effort, the motives and purposes of men. He was a lover of truth and sincerity; indeed, he is remembered as a manly man, of pleasing and dignified presence; a student of many subjects and an influential man in the life of Putnam county. Of sound character and unflagging energy, he stood as a conspicuous example of symmetrically-developed American manhood, and his position as one of the community's representative citizens was acknowledged by all. He was a native of a country which has given to the United States many noble minded citizens.

Bernard Leopold was born in Glandorf, in Hanover, Germany, in 1812, and was about seventeen years old when he came to America. He had intended to come with Professor Horstman and his party, who first settled Glandorf. To avoid being drafted for the army, the lad left before the others and was the first man to leave Glandorf for America. The ship was hung up for six weeks at Southampton, England, and, while there, another ship passed them which was bearing the first settlers of Glandorf. Mr. Leopold went to Cincinnati and there worked in a brickyard for a year.

In the spring of 1834, in company with Henry Siebeneck, Bernard Leopold started on foot and walked all the way to Glandorf. He entered eighty acres of land in Greensburg township, two miles west of Glandorf. He walked from Glandorf to the land office and then went back to Cincinnati, where he remained for two years. He purchased a four-horse team and engaged in hauling lumber. While in Cincinnati, he often passed a

little girl of eleven years, named Elizabeth Siemer. He often took her up to ride with him on her way to school. Years afterward, he again met her and she became his wife.

In 1836 Bernard Leopold came back to Glandorf and started a little store, the first one in Glandorf. He was compelled to drive to Piqua to get his merchandise and it took two weeks in those days to make the round trip. Mr. Leopold was a very useful man to his community, as he would trade for anything which the settlers had to offer. His wife conducted the store much of the time, while he did the trading and the outside work. From a very early date, at least as early as 1842, he began packing pork and bought hogs from a large territory as far away as Leipsic, developing quite a business. During the war he also salted cattle. About 1862 he quit packing pork and in 1863 closed his store.

In 1864 he prepared to build a hotel in Ottawa. He had the bricks made in his own brickyard in Glandorf. In 1865 he built the hotel on the south side of Main street, just west of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad, and kept it until March, 1868, when he rented it to Allen Brothers. Mr. Leopold then purchased two hundred and forty acres of land north of Ottawa, of which forty acres is now inside the town limits. He made his home there the rest of his life and became the owner of a great deal of land at different times.

Bernard Leopold was married three times, his first and second wives each dying about a year after marriage, leaving no children. His third wife and mother of all of his children, was Elizabeth Seimer, who was the little girl who rode in his wagon years before in Cincinnati. She was born in Oldenburg, Germany, and came to America with her parents when ten years old. They settled at Fort Jennings in a little log house on the banks of the Auglaize river. Her father was a carpenter and cabinetmaker, but died a year after coming to this country. After her father died, it was decided to send the child to Cincinnati, where she could live with an elder sister and attend school. The little girl started on the way alone on foot with her belongings in a pillow case, which she hung over her shoulders, suspended by a stocking sewed to the upper corners. She had only thirty-seven cents in money. People asked her if she was running away from home, but, upon hearing her story, treated her kindly and helped her on her way.

After she had finished school she returned to Fort Jennings and lived with her mother until her marriage.

Bernard Leopold died on August 6, 1891, and his wife followed him on November 5, 1904. Both of them were strong, able characters, influential and well known and worthy of the high esteem in which they were held by

so many people. Bernard Leopold is gratefully remembered by many residents of Ottawa, Glandorf and Putnam county, whom he helped in an early day.

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### THEODORE J. KERNER.

A prominent citizen of Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, is Theodore J. Kerner, a member of the firm of Falke Brothers & Kerner, monument manufacturers and dealers. This firm has been in existence since November, 1904, although the business was started ten years previously by John Falke and C. Scherger & Sons, under the name of C. Scherger Sons & Company, and Theodore J. Kerner was employed as their representative. The business was first located at the corner of Walnut and Main streets, where the Dumont Hotel is now situated. In October, 1895, the firm bought the building where the business has since been conducted.

Theodore J. Kerner, the son of Matthias and Elizabeth (Henry) Kerner, was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, March 27, 1861. His father was born in Rhein-Beuren, Germany, January 2, 1810, and came to America when a young man and located at Massillon, Ohio, and died in 1881. In that city Matthias Kerner married Elizabeth Henry, who was born on December 3, 1821, in western Pennsylvania, of Dutch ancestry, and died in 1890. Matthias Kerner came to Putnam county, Ohio, in its early history, and was one of the earliest settlers to locate here. He made his permanent home in Greensburg township, buying a farm there, on which he lived until his death at the age of seventy-one. He increased his land holdings from time to time and later bought a farm in Union township and added another farm in Greensburg township. Nine children were born to Matthias Kerner and wife: Mary A., Joseph, Elizabeth, Phillip, Theresa, Bernardine, Catherine, Caroline and Theodore J.

Theodore J. Kerner was educated in the district schools of Greensburg township, and when he was about nineteen years of age, went to New Bavaria, Henry county, Ohio, to learn the blacksmith trade. He remained there three years, receiving twenty-five dollars for his first year's work; fifty dollars for the second year, and seventy-five dollars for his third years' services. For five years he worked at the blacksmith trade altogether, spending the last year or so in Defiance, Ohio. After recovering from an attack of typhoid fever, he went to his old employer at Holgate, who was then operating a general wood-working factory, and while working in this fac-

tory, Mr. Kerner received an injury to his left arm which crippled him for life.

This injury to Mr. Kerner proved to be a turning point in his life. Although he was several years past his majority he made up his mind to become a school teacher. His elementary education had been very limited, and he knew that he would have to go to school in order to prepare himself to teach. Accordingly he went to Ottawa and attended the public schools there for two years. He studied diligently, day and night, in order to prepare himself for some kind of professional career. He absorbed as much information in those two years as many people do in three times the same period, and had no difficulty in securing a license to teach. For the next ten years he taught school, beginning with a summer school just out of Ottawa, known as the New England school. He received the munificent sum of twenty-five dollars for his first summer's teaching. He had thrown his whole heart and soul into his profession, and gave such excellent satisfaction, that he was engaged for the winter term, and at the expiration of his first winter term he taught again the next summer. As a matter of fact, he taught winter and summer and really started the custom of giving summer and winter terms, with a longer vacation at the holiday time. Mr. Kerner made an enviable record as a teacher, remaining in the profession longer than he really wished to, because his patrons urged him to continue teaching. However, his health failed on account of the close confinement in the school room, and he was finally compelled to give up the profession. In 1895 he entered into the monument business, as has been previously mentioned, and he has given it all of his time and attention since.

Mr. Kerner was married on May 31, 1887, at Defiance, Ohio, to Magdalena T. Ardner, who was born in Shelby, Richland county, Ohio, October 28, 1863, and is a daughter of Wendle and Anna (Rimlinger) Ardner. Her father, who was born in 1823, was a native of Prussia, and was a weaver by trade in his native land, although after coming to America he followed farming. Anna Rimlinger was born in 1830. Her parents moved to Defiance county, where they lived the remainder of their lives.

Mr. and Mrs. Kerner are the parents of five children: Margaret Anna, born on April 2, 1888, who is the wife of Charles B. Myer, of this county, and has one son, Urban; Alphonsus Philip, born on October 15, 1889, a farmer of this county, who married Emma Myer, and has one son, Clarence; Mary Matilda, born on June 3, 1892, of Columbus Grove, the wife of Ralph Shindler, and the mother of one son, Willard, and one daughter, Esstella; John Leo, born on October 28, 1893, single, and Pauline Elizabeth, born

April 28, 1895, also single. The last two are still living with their parents in Ottawa.

Mr. Kerner is an active Democrat, but has never been a candidate for public office. He is not a partisan in any sense of the word and often votes for the best man, irrespective of political affiliation. The family are loyal adherents of the Catholic church, and Mr. Kerner was active in promoting the Catholic Knights of Ohio, and has served as president of the local organization of Ottawa and has also filled the position of district state deputy, and organized Branch No. 60, at Miller City.

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### JOSEPH LEOPOLD.

Practical industry, wisely and vigorously applied, never fails of success. It carries a man onward and upward, brings out his individual character and acts as a powerful stimulant to the efforts of others. The greatest results in life are often obtained by simple means, and the exercise of the ordinary qualities of common sense and perseverance. The everyday life with its cares, necessities and duties, affords ample opportunity for acquiring experience of the best kind, and its most beaten paths provide a true worker with abundant scope for effort and self-improvement. One of Putnam county's most successful men, who has succeeded largely because of his industrious habits, is Joseph Leopold, of Ottawa, who is well known through his many activities here, having conducted the Leopold Hotel, of Ottawa, the Leopold elevator, and is still better known as the treasurer of Putnam county, having served in this capacity from 1893 to 1897. Mr. Leopold was twice elected to this office.

Joseph Leopold was born in Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, September 21, 1845. He is a son of Bernard and Elizabeth (Siemer) Leopold, whose history is referred to elsewhere in this volume.

Joseph Leopold was educated in the common schools of Glandorf, and, later, attended college in Cincinnati for about two years. He resided on his father's farm until 1866, when he came to Ottawa with his father, and opened the Leopold Hotel, conducting this hostelry for two years. He then returned to the farm and engaged in buying and shipping live stock for several years. Later, he took charge of the Leopold elevator, buying and shipping grain until 1892. In that year he was elected on the Democratic ticket, as treasurer of Putnam county, taking office in September, 1893. He conducted this office upon strictly business principles, was pleasant and obliging to all, and

in recognition of his merits was re-elected in 1894, and held the office for a second term. Indeed, it was only by a very small margin that his constituents failed to put him in the office for a third term in 1898. This margin has been accounted for by one of those flukes in politics that was in nowise a reflection on Mr. Leopold and he left the office with the knowledge that he had performed his duties ably and well. After going out of office, Mr. Leopold resumed farming and has followed this occupation since that time. He has a farm in Palmer township, near Miller City, consisting of more than two hundred acres.

Joseph Leopold was married on May 4, 1871, to Elizabeth Recker, who was born on her father's farm about a mile south of Glandorf, Putnam county. She is a daughter of Herman Henry and Mary (Kottenbröck) Recker, and is a descendant of an honored pioneer family of Putnam county. A record of her parents is given in the sketch of Frank Recker, on another page of this volume. Suffice it to say here, that her father was a justice of the peace of Ottawa township for more than twenty-five years, and commissioner of the county for two terms, of three years each. He was a man of influence in his community, and widely known and respected by all.

Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Leopold, two of whom died in infancy, the others being Charles, Benjamin, Louis W., Mary, Bessie, and Herman Joseph, who died at the age of six. Charles married Catherine Roof, and lived on the Leopold farm until his wife died in August, 1899, leaving two children, Herman and Hildegarde. Charles Leopold himself died in 1902, and his children have made their home with Mr. and Mrs. Leopold ever since. Benjamin T. Leopold, the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Leopold, lives in Ottawa, and has held several official positions in the county. He married Mallie Brinkman, who died January 25, 1913. Louis W. Leopold is a resident of New York city, and is engaged in the advertising business; he married May Harker, and they have one son, Louis J. Mary, unmarried, lives at home with her parents. Bessie, also living at home, is a stenographer.

The Leopold family are all earnest and devout members of the Catholic church, and are actively interested in the work of this denomination. Joseph Leopold is one of those men who stand out in the civic and political life of a county as a leader of unquestioned merit. He has always been interested in public movements, and himself is a public-spirited citizen. Moreover, he is one of those men the value of whose work does not end when his active career ceases. The influence which he will have left behind will go on, not only to the succeeding generations of his own family, but to the succeeding generations living in Putnam county as well.



## DAVID ALEXANDER LEINSETTER.

Many farmers have been called to positions of official responsibility by the people of their community. In fact, the farm is a most prolific training school for citizenship, and especially for the public service, probably because it first trains for that high degree of rugged honesty so necessary in the public service. One of the most successful farmers of Liberty township, and one of the leading citizens of that township, is David Alexander Leinsetter.

Mr. Leinsetter was born on December 13, 1867, about five miles northwest of Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio. He is a son of John A. and Elizabeth (Krebs) Leinsetter. The history of the Leinsetter family is contained in the sketch of John A. Leinsetter, to be found elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. Leinsetter grew to manhood on the home farm, and lived there until he was twenty-three years of age, at which time he married. His marriage took place on January 1, 1891, at which time he was married to Emma Schweitzer, a daughter of Frederick and Christian (Gottmeier) Schweitzer.

Frederick Schweitzer, the father of Mrs. Leinsetter, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1844, the son of John Michael and Rosina (Wolfinger) Schweitzer, both natives of Wuerttemberg, Germany, who came to the United States in their youth, and were married in this country. They lived and died in Fairfield county. Mr. Schweitzer lived on a farm until fifteen years old, when he learned the shoemaker's trade and followed that occupation in Lancaster. After he had learned this trade he returned to the farm and lived there until his marriage to Christina Gottmeier, who was born in Germany, and at the age of four years came to America with her parents. Philip Gottmeier and wife, who located in Lancaster, Ohio, where she lived until her marriage. In 1872, Mr. Schweitzer and wife came to Leipsic, and here he operated a shoe store, the first of its kind in Leipsic. It was located on the south side of Main street, just east of where the Ohio electric lines now run on the lot now occupied by Kuntz's grocery. He conducted this store for about four years, when it was sold to Mr. Maehlman. On account of his wife's health, Mr. Schweitzer moved to the country, where he farmed for about two years, after which he returned to Leipsic and resumed his trade, which he has followed since. Mr. Schweitzer was a member of the city council of Leipsic for a time. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, of whom five died in childhood. Those living are as follow: David, of Toledo; Rebecca, the wife of Henry Pfister, of Leipsic; Emma, the wife of David Leinsetter; George, furniture dealer of Leipsic, and Albert, a resi-

dent of Chicago. Mr. Schweitzer and his wife have been life-long members of the Lutheran church.

After Mr. Leinsetter's marriage, he farmed for one year on the home place, after which he moved to Leipsic and engaged in the hardware business in the firm of Pfister, Leinsetter & Company. He remained with this firm about a year, after which he followed the well-drilling business for a year. Finally, he bought eighty acres three and one-half miles northwest of Leipsic.

When he moved to this farm, there were only a log cabin and a small barn on the place, which was badly run down and only partly cleared. He has improved it and made of it a good farm, erecting a substantial brick house and many other good farm buildings.

To Mr. and Mrs. Leinsetter two children have been born, Earl Winfred and Edith Elizabeth. Mr. Leinsetter is a genial, wide-awake, enterprising citizen. He has been honored by the people of Liberty township on several occasions. He served as trustee of the township for over four years, first by election, and then by appointment, and became assessor of the township in 1914, and, in all of these various official positions, he has discharged his duties in a manner eminently satisfactory to the people of Liberty township.

Mr. and Mrs. Leinsetter are active and devoted members of the Lutheran church, to which they give liberally of their time and means. They are popular socially in their home township and have a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

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#### GERHARD B. MEYER.

Ohio has been especially honored by the characters and careers of her farmers. In every section have been found men born to leadership in this vocation, men who have dominated because of their superior intelligence, natural endowment and force of character. It is always profitable to study such lives, weigh their motives and hold up their achievements as incentives to greater activities and high excellence on the part of others. These reflections are suggested by the career of Gerhard B. Meyer, who during his life, forged his way to the front ranks of the farmers of Putnam county. By his inherent force of character, his buoyant business ability, he was able to direct and control the actions of his neighbors and fellow citizens. He was a leader in his vocation for more than a generation and few men in Putnam county achieved a more honorable position or occupied a more conspicuous place as a farmer than the late Gerhard B. Meyer. His success was

obtained by normal methods and means, determined application of physical and mental resources along correctly defined lines.

The late Gerhard B. Meyer was born in Hanover, Germany, on August 26, 1833, the son of Theodore and Anna (Mersman) Meyer. Gerhard B. Meyer came with his parents, in 1834, to Glandorf, Putnam county, and spent almost his entire life there. His father located on a farm in section 33, southwest of Ottawa, which he purchased from Professor Horstman. At that time it was all a new country and Indians were still in the vicinity.

On May 1, 1853, Mr. Meyer was married to Anna M. Moening, a sister of Henry Moening, whose life history is found elsewhere in this volume, and which gives the parental history of Mrs. Meyer. She was born in Ottawa township, southwest of Glandorf on April 29, 1835, and was the seventh child baptized in Glandorf. Theodore Meyer, Mr. Meyer's father, was connected with the organization of the church at Glandorf, where Mrs. Gerhard B. Meyer was baptized.

After his marriage, Mr. Meyer remained on the farm. He was born in Hanover, Germany, and after his father's death, purchased the interest of the other heirs in the estate. Gerhard B. Meyer owned, altogether, at one time, three hundred and eighty acres of splendid farming lands in Putnam county. He also conducted a threshing machine for many years and was successful in this business.

To Gerhard B. and Anna M. (Moening) Meyer, eleven children were born, of whom eight grew to maturity, Henry, who lives about two and one-half miles southwest of Leipsic; Theodore, who lives at Toledo; Joseph, who lives about one and one-half miles southwest of Leipsic; Herman, who lives about two miles southwest of Ottawa; Mary, who is the wife of Henry Kreinbrink, a farmer of the west edge of West Leipsic; Frank, who farms the old home place southwest of Ottawa; Kate, deceased, who was the wife of Frank Karhoff; and Lizzie, the wife of Joseph Kleman, who lives in the western part of Liberty township.

Gerhard B. Meyer died on September 17, 1900, and his wife died on March 6, 1912. With the passing of these venerable citizens, Putnam county lost two of its pioneer settlers and two of its most highly respected citizens. Gerhard B. Meyer was a modest, unassuming man, but he was a man of a deeply religious nature who believed in and practiced the fundamental principles of Christianity. He was one of those men of whom it may be truly said that he performed a noble work and that there must be given to him by the eternal order of things the reward laid up that is in store for those who do their duty well on this earth.

## GEORGE JACOB SCHRAM.

A review of the life of the honored and lamented George Jacob Schram must, of necessity, be brief and general in its character. To enter fully into the interesting details of his career, touching the struggles of his early manhood and successes of later days, would far transcend the limits of this article. He filled a large place in the ranks of enterprising and public men of his day and generation, and the luster of his deeds and the memories which attach to his name and character, form no inconsiderable chapter in the history of the community where he did his work and achieved his success. It is sufficient, however, to entitle him to an honorable position among the brave and energetic self-made men of Ohio, who, by enterprise and unswerving integrity, forged to the front and won for the grand old Buckeye commonwealth a place second to none in the bright constellation comprising the union. That he did his part nobly cannot be gainsaid, and, though deceased, he yet speaketh in the works which he accomplished and in the many kind deeds and wholesome influence, which, not only his friends, but the community as well, prize as a great heritage.

George Jacob Schram was born in Fort Jennings on February 5, 1869, and was the son of John and Eva Schram, both of whom were natives of Germany, and who were early settlers in Putnam county, Ohio, where they were farmers. Mrs. Eva Schram passed away early in life. The father, however, is still living.

The late George Jacob Schram received a common-school education, attending school during the winter months and assisting his father on the farm during the summer. In his youth, he was known as a young man of industrious habits and a clean mind and a wholesome heart. He grew to manhood as a young man of honorable and upright habits and was always highly respected.

The late George Jacob Schram was married on April 2, 1892, to Nellie W. Huysman, who was born on December 4, 1868, and who was the daughter of Aaron and Gretchen (Osenga) Huysman, the former of whom is a native of Holland, born on December 15, 1838, and the son of Henry Peter and Nelly Huysman. To this very happy union three children were born, all of whom are now living: Aaron was born in May, 1893; he lives at home and operates the home farm for his mother. Margaret was born on April 26, 1895, and is now attending school; William was born on August 12, 1897, and he, likewise, is at home.

After a long and useful life, but a life all too brief, by his many worthy

deeds and loving kindness, George Jacob Schram passed away September 22, 1908. He was a man who will long be remembered in Monterey township as one of its leading citizens and farmers. Although modest and unassuming in manner, he was possessed of a deeply religious nature, and throughout his life was devoted to the work of the Lutheran church, in which he, as well as the members of the family who survive, have always been earnest and active supporters. Mr. Schram did not toil in vain; his widow and children were left well provided for. Mrs. Schram owns ninety-five acres of splendid land in Monterey township. The farm has been improved from time to time and now has modern buildings, and imposing house and a commodious barn. Much of this work was performed by the departed husband and father, and his influence did not cease with his death, but will go on to bless the loving widow and the children, who will strive the harder to follow the upright example which he left.

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#### BARNEY BRUSKOTTER.

In the early days, the Middle West was often a tempting field for energetic, ambitious and strong-minded men. Ohio was filled with them during the time she was struggling for a respectable position in the sisterhood of states. During the twenty-five or more years subsequent to the admission of Ohio to the Union, there was a fascination in the broad fields of promise, which this new region presented. The country attracted many men and induced them to brave the discomforts of early life, for the pleasure and gratification of building their own fortunes in their own way. Many European countries furnished pioneer citizens to the state of Ohio, but no country furnished a better class of citizens than Germany. A son of one of these early German settlers is Barney Bruskotter, the subject of this sketch. His father was among the pioneers of Putnam county, and since the coming of Barney Bruskotter, Sr., the family has been an important factor in the life of Putnam county.

Barney Bruskotter, Jr., was born in Greensburg township on May 26, 1864. He is the son of Barney and Christine (Edelbrock) Bruskotter. Barney Bruskotter, Sr., was born in Germany, as was also his wife. He came to the United States and to Putnam county and his wife came with her parents when she was a small child. Barney Bruskotter, Sr., was married in Putnam county. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, six of whom are still living: Henry lives at Shepard, Michigan, on a farm;

William died about 1909; Frank lives at Lima, Ohio; Barney, Jr., is the subject of this sketch; Katherine is the wife of Al Luersman; they live at Landeck, Allen county, Ohio; Thresa is the wife of Henry Weaging; they live in Jennings township; Anna is the wife of John Bearhide; they live in Cloverdale.

Barney Bruskotter, Sr., was a farmer. He owned a farm in Greensburg township and also owned land in Jennings township. He died in 1874; his wife survived until February 4, 1900.

Barney Bruskotter, Jr., received his early education in the common schools of Putnam county. He lived on the farm and performed the usual labor which falls to the lot of the country boy, and remained with his parents until his marriage.

Mr. Bruskotter, Jr., was married on August 24, 1893, to Miss Katherine Bearhide, a daughter of Henry and Anna (Leopold) Bearhide, both natives of Germany, the former came to this country alone when a young man. His wife came with her parents. They were married in Putnam county and were the parents of eight children, seven of whom are still living: Mary died at the age of forty-two; Elizabeth is the wife of William Horstmann, and they live at Montana, Putnam county; Wilemine is the wife of William Bruskotter, who died in 1905; his widow lives at Ft. Jennings; Katherine is the wife of Barney Bruskotter, Jr., the subject of this sketch; she was born December 20, 1864. Henry lives in Jennings townships; John lives at Cloverdale; Frank lives in Jennings township, and Anna is the wife of Benjamin Unverferth; they live at Ottawa. Mrs. Anna Bearhide was married first to Fred Kramer, and by this marriage was the mother of one son, Fred Kramer, who died in August, 1909. After the death Mr. Kramer, Mrs. Kramer married Mr. Bearhide. Henry Bearhide, who was a farmer, died on April 8, 1905; his wife survived until May 5, 1915.

To Mr. and Mrs. Barney Bruskotter, Jr., five children have been born, all of whom are living: Elenore was born on April 9, 1894; she lives at home. Veronica was born on January 10, 1896; she is a teacher and also lives at home; Leander was born on September 10, 1897, and lives at home; Helen was born on October 29, 1902, and is at present attending school; Florence was born on November 20, 1904, and is attending school.

Barney Bruskotter owns ninety acres of land in section 9, in Jennings township. He has made extensive improvements and additions on this farm, including a barn and house. Mr. Bruskotter raises a high grade of live stock and has been very successful as a farmer in Putnam county.

The family are members of the Catholic church at Ft. Jennings. Politic-

ally, Mr. Bruskotter is a stanch Democrat. He is now serving his fourth year as trustee of Jennings township, and is president of the township board, in which position he is serving his second year. Barney Bruskotter is a man well respected in his community; a man who is liberal in support of public enterprises, who is rearing an industrious family, and whose name is a credit to the community where he resides.

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### WILLIAM V. TRASK.

The gentleman whose name appears at the head of this review has proved himself worthy of representation in a work of this nature by reason of his unfaltering duty to his fellow citizens and by constantly advocating those things which make for the betterment of mankind. He is looked up to by his friends and acquaintances and all who know him on account of his firm convictions and because he earned a goodly share of this world's goods, by having led a life of thrift and industry. He has always been ready to lend a helping hand to the advancement of good policy and his life has been one of unceasing activity. Having pursued his career and achieved success by honorable means he is regarded as one of Putnam county's leading and substantial citizens.

William Trask was born in Pleasant township on February 10, 1866, and is the son of John and Rachel (Kidd) Trask. The father was born on March 22, 1835, in Trumbull county, Ohio, and is the son of Isaac and Margaret (Jack) Trask, who came to Putnam county in 1837 and settled in Ottawa township near the town of Ottawa. John Trask was twice married, the first time to Elizabeth Casebolt and by this union two children were born, Isaac N. on June 21, 1857, who resides in the state of Nebraska, and Susan J., July 9, 1858, died on January 7, 1859. Soon after his first marriage, John Trask removed to a fifty-acre farm in Pleasant township, this county, to which he added one hundred and seventy-four acres at a later date and the total acreage of two hundred and twenty-four acres he retained and farmed until the time of his death. His second marriage occurred on August 12, 1862, to Rachel Kidd, daughter of Ezra and Julia A. (Hooper) Kidd and was born on January 7, 1843. Her parents settled in Putnam county in 1837 and to their union were born six children, the names and birth date as follow: Kemerer, on March 14, 1861, died on September 24, 1870; James W., May 25, 1863, who resides in Vinita, Oklahoma; William, the subject

of this sketch; Guy, May 23, 1874, who resides in Detroit, Michigan; Zoe, April 15, 1876, died on August 9, 1877, and Harry, April 27, 1879, who is a practicing physician in Detroit, Michigan. On September 12, 1893, the father of these children died on the homestead farm. His wife's father, Ezra Kidd, was born on May 5, 1817, in Washington county, Ohio, which place he left when a very young man, accompanied by his father and settled near the town of Rockport, Ohio. He left this homestead at a later date and came to Columbus Grove, Ohio, and farmed for several years in Pleasant township. At a later date he sold out the Pleasant township farm and rented property in Sugar Creek township, near the town of Vaughnsville, where he remained until September 12, 1893, which was the year of his death. His wife was a native of Franklin county, Ohio, near the city of Columbus, where she was born on May 13, 1821, and after living a peaceful and most useful life, she died on August 16, 1886. To their union were born twelve children, Rachel, the subject's mother; Mary Jane (Postlewaite), who died in 1912; Washington, who died in infancy; Rhoda (Thompson); Philip; William; James, deceased; John; Sarah (Barnam); Vance; Cassius, and an unnamed infant. The father of these children was a firm believer in the principles of the Republican party while the family belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church.

It should not be omitted in this review that "Grandpa" James Jack served his country in the War of 1812 and that John Trask had four brothers who served in the Civil War. In this war Nathaniel was killed at the battle of Chickamauga; James lost his left arm; Robert was mustered into the service, but never left the city of Columbus, Ohio, for action, and William was killed at the battle of Stone's River.

William Trask spent the days of his youth on his father's farm, received his education in the township schools, and has continued to live on the place ever since. On June 24, 1884, he was married to Ella Buck, daughter of Henry and Susan (Wagner) Buck, who was born in Pleasant township. Her father was also born in Pleasant township on July 21, 1839, and was the son of Benjamin Denton and Almeda (Conant) Buck. Benjamin D. Buck was a native of Pennsylvania and the home place was near the Susquehanna river. He was born on July 7, 1802, and came to Medina county, Ohio, when a boy, where he grew to manhood and was married. In 1835 he came to Putnam county and entered three hundred and twenty acres of land, where he spent the remainder of his life. He died on September 16, 1865, at the age of sixty-three years. Subject's wife's mother, Susan (Wagner) Buck, was a native of Athens county, Ohio, and left there at the



age of eight years for Putnam county, and was accompanied by her parents. Here she grew to womanhood and died on January 1, 1879, in the thirty-seventh year of her age. Henry Buck was twice married, the first time, in the year 1863, to Susan Wagner who was born on April 13, 1841. To their union were born four children, Ella (Trask), of Columbus Grove, Ohio; Laura (Webster), of San Gabriel, California; Henry E., of Pleasant township, this county, and Albert, who is residing in the state of Texas. The second marriage occurred in 1881, when he took Mary Jane Leonard to be his wife and to which union there were no children. She died on March 4, 1911. Henry Buck spent all of his boyhood days on his present farm, consisting of sixty-six acres, in Pleasant township, and during his time has creditably held the office of township trustee for twelve years. He was also justice of the peace for about ten years; has always been a Republican in politics and religiously is not identified with any particular denomination, but formerly was a member of the United Brethern church. He was one of seven children, William, Seth, Benjamin, Lovina, Orson, Henry and Lewis Denton, who lives in the state of Kansas. The first five are deceased.

Soon after his marriage, William Trask removed from the old farm, which consisted of one hundred and four acres, to a forty-acre farm, which is situated across the public highway from the old place. On this place he made all the improvements necessary to put the farm in first-class condition and is very successful in raising a general line of crops. To him and his wife have been born eight children, Ethel, who married Charles Gettman, and has two children, Robert and Leora; Ralph, who died at the age of ten years; Pratt, who married Grace Lee, and lives in Columbus Grove, Ohio, where he conducts a barber shop. They have one child, Mildred; Guy, of Bellefontaine, Ohio; Lena; Clifford; Irene and Virgil, all of whom reside under the parental roof.

William Trask is a man widely known throughout Putnam county and is particularly noted for his sterling character, strict attention to his own affairs and for the consistent support that he gives to all meritorious enterprises that are intended for the welfare and advancement of the community at large. He has creditably served as township trustee for one year of a two year's term, takes an active and aggressive interest in supporting the principles of the Democratic party and religiously, is not identified with any particular denomination. Personally, he is a man worthy of the respect of every one and on account of his kindly disposition, genial manners, and affability, it is a pleasure to have him numbered among one's friends and acquaintances.

## LOUIS VON LEHMDEN.

Among the men who have devoted their lives to the pursuit of agriculture, and who by unceasing energy and well-directed efforts have attained a good share of this world's goods, is the man whose name appears as the caption for his review. Descended from good old German ancestry and having had instilled into him the habits of frugality, thrift and industry, it is not surprising that Louis Von Lehmden should have won for himself the merited praise and high esteem of his fellow man and achieved a degree of success that entitles him to special recognition in a work containing the annals of Putnam county.

Louis Von Lehmden was born in Jennings township, Putnam county, Ohio, on May 14, 1846 and is the son of Francis and Elizabeth (Helmkamp) Von Lehmden. The father was a native of Germany and came to this country when quite a young man and settled in Putnam county during the year 1835. The mother was also a native of Germany and came to America with her parents when she was a very young girl and they settled in this county in an early day. Francis Von Lehmden and wife were married at a later date and to them were born three children, Francis, deceased; Louis, the subject of this review, and Anna, who was married to Henry Baumgarte, now deceased, and she is living at present in Delphos, Ohio. The mother survived the father of these children and married a second time, her second husband being Henry Suever and to their union were born two children, William, deceased, and August. Mr. and Mrs. William Suever continued to reside in Jennings township until the time of their deaths. He died in the year 1900, having survived his wife five years.

Louis Von Lehmden received his early schooling in the township schools and remained with his parents until the time of his marriage, November 14, 1872, when Mary E. Gerker became his wife. She was a native of Putnam county and had lived there since her birth in 1849. To their union were born five children, all of whom are living, whose names are given in the order of their birth, Henry C. on July 8, 1874, who is engaged in the butcher business, in Ft. Jennings, this county; Amelia, November 11, 1876; William J., October 28, 1879; Francis G., June 13, 1883; Edward J., May 19, 1889. All of these children make their homes with the parents at this time.

Louis Von Lehmden inherited from his parents an eighty-acre tract of fairly good farming land, to which he has added one hundred and five acres. A number of new and substantial farm buildings have been constructed, including the comfortable and well-built home place and a fine new barn

building. These improvements have been made at considerable sacrifice and expense, but have added so materially to the value of the farm that the end justified the means and has contributed largely to the comfort and satisfaction of the entire family. On this place the business of general farming is done and it is said that the production of grain and other products is well up with the average farm in this locality.

Mr. Von Lehmden is a persistent advocate of the principles of Democracy, takes quite an active interest in public affairs, and served the community for three terms as township trustee, which office he filled with credit to himself and wholly satisfactory to everyone concerned and has also been a member of the board of school directors for many years. Mr. Von Lehmden is not a member of any social or fraternal organization, but, religiously, the entire family are regular attendants and devout members of the Catholic church in Ft. Jennings. Personally, Mr. Von Lehmden enjoys the confidence and high regard of every one in his community and possesses attributes and characteristics that fully entitle him to the respect and consideration of his fellow men.

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#### HERMAN FRANK MEYER.

Agriculture has been an honored vocation from the earliest ages, and as a usual thing men of honorable and humane impulses, as well as those of energy and thrift, have been patrons of husbandry. The free, outdoor life of the farm has a decided tendency to foster and develop that independence of mind and self-reliance which characterizes true manhood. No truer blessing can befall a boy than to be reared in close touch with nature in the healthful, life-inspiring labor of the fields. It has always been the fruitful soil from which have sprung the moral bone and sinew of the country, and the majority of our nation's greatest warriors, renowned statesmen and distinguished men of letters were born on the farm, and were indebted largely to its early influence for the distinction which they have attained.

Herman Frank Meyer, a prosperous and enterprising farmer of Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, was born two miles southwest of Ottawa, on October 3, 1873. He is a son of Gerhard B. and Anna M. (Moening) Meyer. Herman Frank Meyer has lived all his life on the farm where he now resides, and where he was born.

Mr. Meyer was married on August 31, 1898, to Paulina Karhoff, who was born northwest of Glandorf, in this county. She is a daughter of

Frank H. and Agnes (Niese) Karhoff. Frank Karhoff was born on June 26, 1850, on the farm where he now lives, one mile northwest of Glandorf. He is a son of Herman Henry and Adeline (Grote) Karhoff, the former a native of Holland, and the latter a native of Germany. Herman Henry Karhoff came to America at the age of twenty-three years. His future wife came to this country on the same ship. Eventually, he came to Putnam county, Ohio, and purchased two hundred and eighteen acres of land near Glandorf. Mrs. Meyer's father was only ten years of age when her grandfather died. The grandmother remained on this farm, reared her children, and spent her old age there with her son, her death occurring on August 9, 1895, at the age of eighty-seven years. Mrs. Meyer's father was reared on the farm near Glandorf, and was married, August 3, 1870, to Agnes Niese, who was born north of her present home, and who is the daughter of Barney and Catherine (Lafkon) Niese, the former a native of Prussia, and the latter of Hanover, Germany. Mrs. Meyer's father has been an extensive breeder of thoroughbred Durham cattle, but gave up this branch of farming some years ago. Mrs. Meyer is one of ten children born to her parents, Frank B. first married Katie Meyer. She died, leaving an infant son, Harry, and he afterward married Lucy Hulsman, to which union five children were born, Laura, Edwin, Philomina, Alma and Edna. Frank lives at the east edge of Greensburg township, north of the Ottawa & Kalida pike; Henry Karhoff married Lucy Ellerbrock, and lives north of Kalida on the Napoleon road. They have seven children, Delia, Lawrence, Amos, Francis, Cornelius, Emma and Raymond; Amelia is the wife of Mathias Robke, and lives in Cloverdale. They have two sons, Frank and Albert; Paulina is the wife of H. F. Meyer, and lives southwest of Ottawa, and they have six children, Albert, Lawrence, Felix, Luella, Mary and Agnes; Philomina is the wife of Ben Brinkman, and lives one and one-half miles from Kalida on the Columbus Grove pike, and they have three children, Edwin, Hilda and Norma; John married Lena Hulsman and lives in the northwest part of Pleasant township, and they are the parents of three children, Ida, Urban and Leo; Emma is the wife of Edwin Brinkman, and they live in the southwest part of Liberty township. They have two children, Alice and Mary; Albert married Agnes Stechschulte and lives near the northwest corner of Ottawa township; Lewis and Barney are unmarried and living at home. Albert and Lewis are twins, born on February 20, 1891.

Herman Frank Meyer now owns one hundred and twenty-nine acres of land, on which he carries on a diversified system of farming and has met with a very commendable degree of success in his efforts.

Mr. Meyer and family are devout members of the Catholic church at Glandorf. In fact, both the Meyer and Karhoff families are and have been for many generations members of this church, and are actively interested in its welfare, contributing generously to its support. Mr. Meyer lives on the old home farm, where he has a splendid brick residence, good barns, well-kept fences and fields, and his farm presents a very attractive appearance. He is an enterprising and progressive farmer, and a man well entitled to recognition in a volume of this character.

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#### MATHIAS BRINKMAN.

Although Mathias Brinkman may not have been one of the pioneer settlers of Putnam county, yet, he has been a life-long resident in this community and by his indomitable courage, persistent endeavor and successful career, has stamped his impress on those with whom he has come in contact and is worthy of the praise and admiration of his fellow men for his high personal character and attainment of a due measure of success by his own efforts. The qualities which have made Mr. Brinkman one of the prominent and successful agriculturists of this county have been those of well-directed energy, strong determination and honorable methods.

Mathias Brinkman was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on March 20, 1852, and is the son of Frank and Elizabeth (Winkelman) Brinkman, both of whom were born in Germany and came to this country with their respective parents at different times and when they were very young. Frank Brinkman settled in Cincinnati when he came to America and was employed there at various kinds of labor. This was in the year 1847, and after a few years in that city, he was married to Elizabeth Winkelman. Leaving Cincinnati, in the year 1856, he decided to move to Delphos, Ohio, where he remained a short time and during October of the following year he purchased eighty acres of land in Jennings township, Putnam county, on which land he made his home for the remainder of his life, his death occurring, September 19, 1891. Frank and Elizabeth (Winkelman) Brinkman were born seven children, Mathias, the subject of this review; Elizabeth, the wife of John Helmick who lives in Van Wert county; Gerhart, who resides in Jennings township, and who died on June 20, 1915; Anna, who married Henry Krietemeyer, lived in Monterey township, this county, and who is now deceased since April 10, 1898; Frank, who lives on the homestead place in Jennings town-

ship, and two children that died in infancy. The mother of these children lived until July 19, 1903, and both the father and mother were devout members of the Catholic church in Ottoville.

Mathias Brinkman received his early education in the neighboring schools of Jennings township and remained under the parental roof until about the time of his marriage to Anna Wolke on February 14, 1882, born on September 24, 1862. She was a daughter of Henry and Angeline (Lampe) Wolke who were both natives of Germany and are now deceased, Henry since March 16, 1915, and Angeline since April 27, 1902. Soon after his marriage Mr. and Mrs. Brinkman went to live on a farm consisting of eighty acres which he owned and which is located in section 18, about one mile northeast of Ottoville. On this place Mr. Brinkman has made a great many improvements, consisting of a new barn and modern house, besides the building necessary for the care of farm machinery, etc. He devotes all of his time to general farming and stock raising and by economical management has been able to produce grain and stock at a fair margin of profit to himself. To their union were born eleven children, of whom seven are living, Mary, on November 22, 1882; Elizabeth, July 2, 1884, who was married to Edward Schwertner on June 25, 1913, who lives in Cleveland, Ohio; Emma, born January 16, 1886, who married Louis Ricker on August 30, 1911, and who lives in Van Wert county, Ohio; Gerhard, born on September 26, 1887; Eleanora, born on March 25, 1894; Hildegard, born on April 30, 1897, and Sylvester, born on December 25, 1900; Mary and four children who died in infancy. The last four named making their residence with the father and they all mourn the loss of a devoted, loyal and true wife and mother who passed from this earth on May 13, 1904, and lies at rest in the cemetery in Ottoville where she was buried according to the rites of the Catholic church of which the family are members.

Mr. Brinkman is deeply interested in the progressive policies of the Democratic party and has always been identified with that party, though he does not take an active interest in politics. He is a man that stands for all that is right and is ever willing to lend his assistance to all worthy projects for the benefit of his fellow men. Personally, Mathias Brinkman is a man of kindly and genial temperament and has many friends throughout this section of the county. He is known to be particularly successful in raising graded stock on his farm, his business dealings in this line affording him an opportunity for a large acquaintance. He enjoys the respect and esteem of all those who know him and is regarded by all as one of the substantial and worthy citizens of this community.

## ROBERT MONROE KRATZ.

The purpose of biography is not to give voice to a man's modest opinion of himself or his accomplishments, but rather to leave upon the record for posterity the verdict of his day and generation as to his character and the consensus of opinion as to his worth among his fellow citizens. In touching the life history of Robert Monroe Kratz, extravagant praise is avoided. There is sufficient in Mr. Kratz's life,—true, useful and honorable—that his example may be emulated by the young men of this generation. His life has been characterized by perseverance and energy, charity and well-defined purpose, and he is eminently entitled to representation in any historical work of the county in which he lives.

Robert Monroe Kratz was born on October 10, 1858, at Mt. Union, Stark county, Ohio, the son of John and Caroline (Guge) Kratz. John Kratz was born on October 18, 1830, in Stuttgart, Germany, the son of Thomas Kratz and Barbarabidlor Kratz. John Kratz was married in Germany, shortly after which he came to America. He was preceded, however, by two younger brothers, fourteen and sixteen years of age, one of whom died at Buffalo, New York, shortly after arriving in America. John Kratz came to America in October, 1856. He was a printer by trade, but never followed this vocation after coming to this country. He came direct to Stark county, where he rented a farm and, a little later, moved to Columbiana county, where he continued farming. About the close of the Civil War, he removed to Carroll county and purchased a farm near Malvern, Ohio. He lived on this farm until his death, on November 26, 1886. Jacob Kratz, a younger brother, came to America with John and Caroline Kratz, who afterward served four years in the Civil War. He was captured and held nine months in Andersonville prison and died recently at his home in Cleveland, Ohio. Just prior to coming to America, John Kratz married Caroline Guge, the daughter of Christopher and Catherine Guge. To this union four children were born, Catherine, who married Lewis Reed, of Bayard, Ohio, and has three children, Robert M., the subject of this sketch; John, who married Vinta Roach and lives at Youngstown, and they have one child, and Jacob, who married Hannah Duper. They have six children and live at home on the old homestead near Malvern, Carroll county.

Receiving his early education in Columbiana and Carroll counties, Robert Monroe Kratz, in addition to the common schools, attended high school and a special normal school at Malvern, Ohio. He remained on the farm until he was twenty years old, his father having died when he was seventeen.

He then learned the building trade and spent a year in South Bend, Indiana, when he returned to Ohio, where he followed his trade for a couple of years. Subsequently, he spent two years in Iowa and then returned to Putnam county, where he was married, after which he returned again to Carroll county and there he remained two years. Finally, he returned to Putnam county again and bought a farm two and one-half miles east of Leipsic, where he has remained until the present time.

At the age of twenty-five, Mr. Kratz was married to Alice Weaver on November 22, 1882. Mrs. Kratz is the daughter of Nicholas and Sarah (Williams) Weaver, who lived on the farm now occupied by Mr. Kratz. Nicholas Weaver was born in New Harrisburg, Carroll county, Ohio, and is the son of David Weaver and wife, who came from Pennsylvania to Carroll county, Ohio, in an early day. Nicholas Weaver was one of twelve children, five sons and seven daughters. Three of the sons, Solomon, David and Jonathan, became famous and were all well known ministers; Solomon was the founder of a college in Kansas and was a competent official in the United Brethren church, and David also distinguished himself as a minister in the same church; Jonathan was a bishop for forty years and at the beginning of his career, was president of Otterbein University of Ohio, and the author of many religious works. As bishop in his church, he had supervision of practically the entire country at different times.

Mrs. Kratz, who was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, on September 20, 1865, has one brother, Rev. E. S. Weaver, at present pastor of Grace Methodist Episcopal church at Norwood, a suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio. Her mother was also born in Tuscarawas county. Mrs. Weaver's parents were of Welsh descent.

To Robert M. and Alice (Weaver) Kratz five children have been born, Edwin died in infancy; Ada, the wife of Simon Hummon, both of whom are engaged in educational work. They reside at Leipsic and have two children, Maxine and Everett; Maude, who is the wife of William Davenport, lives at Park River, North Dakota, where Mr. Davenport is superintendent of schools. They have two children, Robert and Virginia; Everett, who is still single and is at present superintendent of schools at Dupont, Ohio, and Madge, who is unmarried and at home.

Mr. Kratz has followed the builder's trade for twenty-two years. He is also a successful farmer and is well known as such.

While a Democrat and interested generally in political affairs, Mr. Kratz has been too busy with personal and private matters to devote much attention to political questions. Fraternally, he is a member of Leipsic



Lodge No. 548, Free and Accepted Masons, and was master of this lodge for three years. Mrs. Kratz is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Robert M. Kratz is not only a successful man but he is what might be called a good man in every sense of the word and a man highly esteemed in the locality where he lives.

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### SQUIRE J. BAKER.

A prominent and distinguished citizen of Bellmore, Putnam county, Ohio, is Squire J. Baker, who has been a resident of this county since the spring of 1872. He has an unusual record as a soldier of the Civil War, during which struggle he was captured by the Confederates and held a prisoner for one hundred and ten days. Since the latter part of the seventies he has been engaged in barbering in Bellmore, and for more than forty years has followed his trade in that place. Mr. Baker has been a curio and relic hunter for more than half a century, and now has one of the finest collections of relics in the state of Ohio. He has taken a very prominent part in the civic life of his community, and has held various official positions in a manner which indicates that he is a man of more than ordinary ability. He is one of the most progressive and enterprising citizens of his community, and has never failed to give his hearty support to all worthy measures which were calculated to improve the community in any way.

Squire J. Baker, the son of John and Elma (Shinn) Baker, was born in Sydney, Ohio, on October 19, 1842. His father was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, on September 9, 1815, and died on September 13, 1896. John Baker was a son of John C. Baker, a native of Germany, who came to America at an early age and located in Virginia, where he married Mary Bush, a native of Virginia. John C. Baker and wife were the parents of several children, Henry, Christopher, John, Squire, Jacob, Elizabeth, Polly and Lydia Ann.

John Baker came to Ohio and located in Shelby county with his parents when he was a small boy, his father locating on government land. In that county John Baker attended the public schools and on October 4, 1837, was married to Elma Shinn, of Warren county, Ohio. After his marriage he entered a tract of government land, which he farmed until three or four years before his death, September 13, 1896. In addition to farming, John Baker was a local minister in the Methodist Episcopal church. He enlisted in the Ninety-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, but was rejected

on account of his physical condition. Elma Shinn, the mother of Squire J. Baker, was born in Lebanon, Warren county, Ohio, on July 3, 1816, and died on June 23, 1898. John Baker and wife were the parents of eleven children, Louis, who died at the age of two; Mary E., who died at the age of thirty, of Bellmore; Martha Ann, the wife of a Mr. Leonard, of Spencer, Indiana; Diantha, who died at the age of thirty; Mrs. Margaret Jane Stang; Anna, of Shelby county, Ohio; Mrs. Manorah Isabel Stutz, of Spencer, Indiana; Delilah, who died at the age of fifteen; William Webster, of Kansas City, Missouri; Harvey Newton, of Toledo, Ohio, and Sherman Grant, of Dayton, Ohio.

Squire J. Baker was educated in the rude subscription schools of his home county, which were current in his day, although he only received about one year of schooling altogether, his father splitting rails in order to secure money to pay for this one year's education. However, his mother was a well-educated woman, and he gained much of his education at her knee. He spent his boyhood on the old home place and, at the age of eighteen enlisted in Company K, Twentieth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war, with Generals Grant and Sherman. His regiment was attached to the Second Brigade, Third Division Seventeenth Army Corps of the Army of the Tennessee, and among other battles he participated in the following: Hankinson's Ferry, Raymond, Mississippi, Champion's Hill, Vicksburg, Jackson, Baker's Creek, Kenesaw Mountain, Nickajack Creek, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Lovejoy Station, Savannah, Pocotaligo, Orangeburg, Columbia, Cheraw, Bentonville and Goldsborough. He was captured at Brandon, Mississippi, and held prisoner by the Confederates for one hundred and ten days before he was finally exchanged, when he rejoined his regiment and served until the close of the war, and was finally mustered out of service at Washington, D. C., May 30, 1865.

After the close of the war, Mr. Baker returned to his home in Sydney, Ohio, and helped his father on the old homestead. In the spring of 1867 he was married and began farming near Sydney, living on a farm there until April 2, 1872, on which date he moved to Bellmore, Putnam county, Ohio, where he worked in the timber for five years, after which he opened a barber shop in Bellmore and has been in this business since that time.

The interesting career of Mr. Baker would not be complete without mention were made of his fine collection of relics and curios. It is impossible in this brief sketch to give a complete list of the interesting articles which Mr. Baker has collected, but enough will be mentioned to show the wide variety of his collection. He has a tool made of stone, shaped something

like a whetstone, which the Indians used as a hide dresser, which was excavated from the Indian mounds on the Ohio river above Cincinnati. He has a fine specimen of an Indian granite ax, and a half dozen other stone hammers and axes which he has picked up at various places. Two other interesting relics are shuttles which were used by the Indians in weaving fishing and trapping nets. These shuttles are flat stones with two holes in them, through which the deer thongs were passed. He also has a numerous and varied collection of arrow-heads of all sizes, many of them significant of certain tribes. He has a very rare and valuable scalping-hawk, commonly known as a tomahawk, which is fashioned like a hatchet, except that the hammer end of the hatchet is pointed in shape. This interesting relic was exhumed near Upper Sandusky, near the point where Colonel Crawford was burned at the stake by the Indians, and probably this weapon was used in severing the scalp from some unfortunate victim. An Indian pestle, fashioned from stone, similar to that now used by a druggist, is another interesting curio. It is about six inches tall and from two and one-half to three inches in diameter. This tool was used by the Indians in grinding corn in a hollow stone or the stump of a tree. A stone pipe which was once in possession of some Wyandot Indian, is in the collection of Mr. Baker, the pipe having been found near the remains of an Indian who had been buried in a sitting posture. A unique powder-horn obtained from a rebel soldier by Mr. Baker himself, is artfully carved into a perfect horn, and the rebel soldier told Mr. Baker that it was the handiwork of his own grandfather. Mr. Baker has a splendid collection of Civil War relics, included in which are bullets, revolvers, army muskets, tools for repairing muskets, an original package of cartridges which had never been untied, and many other interesting mementos of that terrible struggle. Not the least interesting of his Civil War relics, is a soldier's combination knife, fork and spoon, which closes up like a pocket knife.

Mr. Baker has been twice married, his first marriage occurring in the spring of 1867, when he was united to Susan Caroline Michael, and to this first union three children were born, Frank, Minnie and John, who died in infancy. In 1875 his first wife died, and a few years later he married Mrs. Delilah Vannator, the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Dye) Vannator, and to this second union four children were born, Kitty May, who died at the age of two; John C., who died when he was about two years old; Ethel, the wife of A. G. Yaunce, of Cleveland, Ohio, and Orville J., who is now living in Portland, Oregon.

Mr. Baker has been a life-long Republican, and has been the recipient of various honors at the hands of his party. He has served three terms as marshal of Bellmore, and seven years as mayor. For eighteen years he held the important position of notary public and during Benjamin Harrison's administration he was postmaster of Bellmore. Mr. Baker joined the Methodist Episcopal church when he was fourteen years of age, and later in life became a member of the Church of God, serving as an elder in this denomination for some years. Later in life he became affiliated with the Evangelical church, to which he now gives his hearty support. Mr. Baker has always been prominent in the life of his community since he became a resident of the village, and has taken a conspicuous place as a leader and counselor in matters pertaining to the progress and betterment of the community.

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#### WILLIAM CHESTER SHERRARD.

Faith to facts in presenting the character of William Chester Sherrard is all that is required to make a biographical sketch interesting to those who have at heart the good name of the community. Mr. Sherrard has an honorable reputation and this, more than anything else, gives character and stability to the body politic and makes the true glory of city or state revered at home and respected abroad. In the broad light which things of good repute ever invite, the name and character of William Chester Sherrard is secure and, though of modest demeanor and no ambition to distinguish himself in public position or as a leader of men, his career has been signally honorable and it may be studied with profit by the young men entering upon their life work.

William Chester Sherrard was born in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, on September 9, 1858, the son of William and Mary Jane (Caddy) Sherrard. William Sherrard was born on February 2, 1825, in Muskingum county, Ohio, the son of Henry and Barbara (Radabaugh) Sherrard, the former of whom was a native of Scotland and the latter of Germany. They had four sons and three daughters, William, Calvin, John, Mary, Elizabeth, Eliza and Henry.

Moving to Gilboa, when sixteen years of age, about 1840, William Sherrard remained with his parents until he was about twenty-four years of age. His father died when William was about seventeen years old and, being the eldest son, took his father's place on the farm. He was a man of better education than most men of his day and was self-made in every respect,

having acquired his education largely from home study. He died on September 14, 1891.

At the age of twenty-four, William Sherrard married Mary Jane Caddy, the marriage taking place on August 19, 1850. She was the daughter of Charles C. and Mary Ann (Dyer) Caddy, the latter of whom was born near Alexandria, Virginia, on September 15, 1815. Mary Jane Caddy was born on June 16, 1830, at Cincinnati, Ohio, and died in March, 1907.

Charles C. and Mary Ann Caddy had twelve children, Mary Jane, Dr. William, Robert, Ansel, Hester, Charles C., Elizabeth, Julian, Milton, Eva, Irene and James. Robert and Ansel were killed in the Civil War.

William Sherrard was a cabinetmaker and always followed this trade with the exception of ten years, when he was superintendent of the Putnam county infirmary. He also served in numerous official positions. He spent all of his life after his marriage in Putnam county, except one year, 1874, when he went to Kansas. He was highly respected and upright citizen, a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Methodist Episcopal church.

William Chester Sherrard's grandfather, Charles C. Caddy, was a Methodist minister and a circuit rider. His son, Charles C., Jr., is an editor at Pendleton, Indiana. He is a Civil War veteran and during the war was, for a time, imprisoned at Andersonville.

William and Mary Jane Sherrard had eight children, Almeda, the widow of Eli Harris, of Leipsic; Eva, the wife of J. E. Peckenpaugh, of Leipsic; Prof. C. C., of Angola, Indiana; Dr. Ansel C., of Oakwood, Ohio; William Chester, the subject of this sketch; Mary Hester, the twin sister of William Chester and who died at the age of eleven years; Henry Bassett, of Narden, Oklahoma; Dr. Edward Everett, of Los Angeles, California.

William Chester Sherrard attended the common schools of Blanchard township, remaining on the farm with his parents until twenty-three years old, at which time he was married.

On March 16, 1882, William C. Sherrard was married to Carrie Maidlow, who was born in Blanchard township, Putnam county, on August 29, 1863, the daughter of James and Mary Ann (Buckland) Maidlow. The former was the son of John and Lucinda (Dowd) Maidlow. John Maidlow was a native of England and came with his father to America, landing at Baltimore in 1812, when he was thirteen years of age. He came on to Knox county, Ohio, married Lucinda Dowd in that county in 1834 and one year later came on to Putnam county. About the year 1836 he settled on the old Maidlow farm. In 1868 he was elected by the Democrats of the Tenth Ohio Congressional District as one of the two delegates to the national Democratic

convention, held in New York city, which nominated Horatio Seymour for President. While always taking an active part in politics, he frequently refused to receive nominations for office, claiming that the post of honor is a private station. On February 18, 1864, he and his wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and died on December 6, 1889. The family history of Mary Ann Buckland is contained in the life story of Elah Buckland, found elsewhere in this volume. Lucinda M. Dowd was born at Mt. Vernon, Knox county, Ohio, on February 17, 1816, and married John Maidlow, February 18, 1834. They came to Putnam county, March 8, 1837. She was the grandmother of fifty-six children and the great-grandmother of forty. Her twelve children were James A., Elizabeth, Ann, Edward, William, Jane, Agnes, Alice, Laura, Martha, Spencer and Putman. James and Mary Ann Maidlow had a number of children, two of whom died in infancy, Viola, the wife of J. E. Nemire, of Tecumseh, Michigan; Alva R.; Carrie, the wife of Mr. Sherrard; Huldah, deceased, the wife of J. C. Anderson; Lucinda, the wife of Nate Hickerson; Alice, the wife of B. J. Conley; Fannie, unmarried and at home, and Mary, the wife of William McDonald, all of whom are residents of Putnam county except Viola.

To William C. and Carrie (Maidlow) Sherrard has been born one daughter, Bessie Dowd, the wife of E. C. Kuntz, of Leipsic. Graduating from the Leipsic high school, she spent four years at Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware, where she was a member of the class of 1905.

After his marriage, William C. Sherrard continued to farm his father's old place in Blanchard township. About ten years later, he bought this farm and has lived here ever since. Mr. Sherrard has always kept a good grade of stock and has been a very successful farmer. He owns one hundred and fifty-one acres, which he has acquired by his own efforts, having started in life without any financial assistance.

Fraternally, Mr. Sherrard is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge No. 284, at Ottawa. He is a Democrat in politics and was a trustee for four years, his term ending in January, 1914. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Leipsic, Ohio, and takes an active interest in its affairs.

William C. Sherrard comes from one of the oldest and most highly respected families of Putnam county, a family of which he, in this late generation, has a good reason to be proud. Mr. Sherrard's honorable, upright life is a fitting tribute to the memories of his father, grandfather and other ancestors who set such splendid examples of worthy living.

## HON. IGNATIUS H. KAHLE.

The late Ignatius H. Kahle spent his entire life in Putnam county, Ohio, and was one of its leading citizens, eminent and able, both in private business and in public life. Whether he was serving his fellow citizens in the capacity of a township official, or his legislative district in the capacity of a member of the state Legislature, he was faithful to every trust which was reposed in him. As a business man, he had those qualities of integrity and industry which made him successful, and at the same time earned for him the hearty commendation of his fellow citizens. In his domestic relations, he was above reproach and was never happier than when seated by his own fireside with his faithful wife and his children about him. He left a name which is honored by those who knew him and cherished by his children and his children's children.

Ignatius H. Kahle, the son of John Francis Kahle, was born in Greensburg, township, Putnam county, Ohio, on August 22, 1850, and died at his home in Glandorf, Ohio, on February 7, 1899. His father was a pioneer citizen of this county and came from Germany in 1832 with Professor Horstman and settled at Glandorf, in this county, the following year.

Having received his education in the district schools of Greensburg township, Ignatius H. Kahle, when only fifteen years of age, became a public school teacher, which honored occupation he followed for three years. When he reached his majority he was elected clerk of Greensburg township, and was re-elected term after term until 1882, when he was nominated and elected representative to the General Assembly of Ohio by a majority of twelve hundred and fifty-six. His service in the Legislature was so eminently satisfactory that he was renominated and elected a second time, by a majority of nineteen hundred and thirty-five, the largest ever given to a candidate in this county, up to that time.

Mr. Kahle made a notable record while a member of the state Legislature. During his second term the *Cincinnati Enquirer* paid a glowing tribute to him in the following words:

"Ignatius H. Kahle, the curly-headed boy of destiny from Putnam, is here pictured with one hand on the plow and the other on the helm of state. Those who know him best eulogize him in both positions. Returning from legislative duties he grapples with the plow or harrow and reaps a bountiful harvest of golden grain in the autumn. In mastering the intricacies of the law, he is no less successful, and is earnest, industrious, cautious, manly. You can count on the member from Putnam as a good Democrat and as a

good fellow. He is quiet and conservative in manner, but just the kind of a man you can sit down and talk to and be surprised at the information you have gained while talking."

At the close of his second term in the state Legislature Mr. Kahle continued to farm for a year, and in 1887 he engaged in the milling business at Glandorf. In the year following he engaged in the mercantile business at Glandorf with Mr. Kersting, and continued this dual kind of activity until 1893, in which year he went to Europe and visited Germany, France, Italy and Austria, taking with him his son, Frank G. Upon his return home he started in a small way the real estate and banking business at Glandorf, and in 1894 established the Bank of Ottawa, in partnership with Doctor Reed and W. H. Harper, Jr., and continued in charge of the bank until his death in 1899. As a legislator, business man, citizen and neighbor, he commanded the respect of all classes of people and was universally recognized as a man of honest convictions and sterling integrity in all things. He was genial and cheerful, and a man whose many ennobling qualities endeared him to everyone with whom he came in contact.

Mr. Kahle was married on November 4, 1875, to Mary A. Miehl. She was born at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a daughter of George and Mary A. (Hegner) Miehl.

Mrs. Kahle's father was born in Rhenish Bavaria, and her mother was a native of Wurttemberg, Germany. When Mrs. Kahle was four years of age, in 1857, the family moved from Pittsburgh, to Carroll county, Ohio, and seven years later the family located in Greensburg township, Putnam county. Her parents resided on a farm here until old age, and then moved to a farm at Ottoville, where Mr. Miehl died on October 3, 1879, three days before his sixty-third birthday. His widow remained on the farm with the children about fifteen years and then married Peter Wannamaker, and moved to Ottoville, where she lived until her death, October 29, 1911, at the advanced age of eighty-six years.

Nine children were born to Ignatius H. and Mary A. (Miehl) Kahle, Frank G., cashier of the Bank of Ottawa Company, who married Gertrude Vocke, and has one son, Robert; Emma B. is the wife of Hubbard C. Gerding, and has two daughters, Mary and Eleanor; Adelia B., the wife of Frank Laibe; Laura M., the wife of George Laibe, and has a daughter, Laura Mae; George W., the assistant cashier of the bank; Harry I., a real estate man, who married Emma Hermiller, and has a daughter, Rosemary; and has a son, Ignatius Henry; Bertha M. and Mary Pauline, who are now attending St. Joseph's Academy at Adrian, Michigan.



After the death of Doctor Reed, the president of the bank, in the spring of 1913, Mrs. Kahle succeeded him and has the distinction of being the only woman in the state of Ohio, who is a president of a bank. The entire family are loyal members of the Catholic church.

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### JACOB J. FRAKER.

Jacob J. Fraker is one of the oldest farmers now living in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio. Mr. Fraker has not always been engaged in farming. For eleven years he was engaged in the mercantile business at Pleasant Bend, Ohio, and recalls that he sold provisions to many of the early settlers of Continental, Ohio, and vicinity, while conducting his general store at Pleasant Bend. Mr. Fraker has had many material misfortunes by fire, but he has not only been able to survive all of them, but has, in each case, taken hold of things with a characteristic which bespeaks energy and new determination. Altogether he now owns two hundred and five acres, one hundred and fifteen acres of which is located in section 5, sixty acres in section 3 and thirty acres in section 8. During recent years and while Mr. Fraker has been engaged in farming, he has combined with the raising of grain, the raising of good breeds of live stock. He at present has about one hundred head of Duroc-Jersey hogs on his place and raises a great many Shorthorn cattle. He takes great pride in a splendid Shorthorn bull which he keeps and which is the head of his herd. Jacob J. Fraker is a Swiss by birth and his career is an example of the fortitude, energy and determination which so generally characterizes the people of that world-famed democracy.

Jacob Fraker was born on December 10, 1848, in Altenburg, County of Aargau, Switzerland. His parents were John and Elizabeth (Miller) Fraker. Both his paternal and maternal grandparents were natives of Switzerland. The father of Jacob J. Fraker was one of six children. John Fraker had two sisters and three brothers and came to America in 1853 when Jacob J. was five years old. His wife was a native-born Swiss also. They settled in Defiance county, Ohio, on forty acres of wild and swampy land and lived there for twenty years. In 1862 John Fraker sold this farm and purchased eighty acres. He traded all of this land, comprising one hundred and sixty acres, for one hundred and sixty acres in Henry county and to this latter farm he moved, and where he lived until his death, in 1888. He had cleared the greater part of the farm and also other farms owned by him at the time

of his death, and erected the buildings on the farm now owned by his son, John, brother of the subject.

During his life, John Fraker was active in public affairs, having served on the school board and as supervisor in Defiance county. He was a Democrat in politics and a member of the German Reform church at Sherwood, in Defiance county. His wife, who before her marriage was Elizabeth Miller, died in 1895, when nearly eighty years of age. She has ably assisted her husband in building up the family fortune and had always been a loyal and faithful helpmeet. She was also a member of the German Reformed church.

As heretofore mentioned, Jacob J. Fraker was five years old when his parents came to America. During his early life, he lived in Defiance county on his father's farm. In fact, he lived with his father and mother until his marriage. Jacob J. Fraker has been married three times.

Mr. Fraker's first marriage took place on December 23, 1869, when he was married to Elizabeth Long, the daughter of Thomas and Mary Long. She was born in Crawford county, Ohio, where her parents had settled, and was married to Mr. Fraker in Defiance county. They had only one child, Mary, who married Charles Easton, of Continental, Ohio, and has five children, Orpha, George, William, Emma and Ralph.

Thomas and Mary Long were natives of different countries, he of Bavaria, Germany, and she of England. He was one of the first school teachers of Pennsylvania, having taught in Allegheny county, where he taught in both the German and English schools.

After Jacob J. Fraker's first marriage, his father assisted him in purchasing eighty acres of land in Marks township, Defiance county, where he farmed for three years and, after the death of Mrs. Fraker, in 1873, purchased forty acres more, which he farmed for a short time. He then traded his one hundred and twenty acres in Marks township for one hundred and sixty acres in Palmer township, Putnam county. Mr. Fraker moved to this farm in the fall of 1878 and two years later, on September 30, 1880, he was again married, this time to Mary A. Gardener, the daughter of Charles Gardener and wife. By this second marriage there were three children, the first died in infancy; Harmon Andrew, who was born on November 20, 1888, died on February 10, 1893, and Emma, who married Howard Converse and lives at the present time with Mr. Fraker. They have one child, Jacob Andrew, who was born on August 29, 1903. He is now attending district No. 2 school. Charles Gardener, the father of the second Mrs. Fraker, was a

native of Bavaria, Germany, but his wife was a native of Ohio. At the time of the birth of their daughter, Mary, they lived at Delphos, Allen county.

While the Clover Leaf railroad was being built through Putnam county and after Mr. Fraker's second marriage, he entered the general mercantile business at Pleasant Bend in Henry county, where he was appointed postmaster at that place and combined his business with this office. It was the first business of any importance in Pleasant Bend, in which he continued for about eleven years and during this time he was not only postmaster, but express and railroad agent. His store burned and he rebuilt it in 1889. After that he sold the stock, but retained the building, which burned a second time. In the meantime he had moved to his present farm in Palmer township, about October, 1889, and here erected a residence. Mr. Fraker cleared the farm and built many substantial buildings, also drained and fenced the land. When he purchased this farm there was no road in front of it. There were many trying ordeals to be overcome and these required much hard work and patience. Mr. Fraker was visited with a second great misfortune when his wife died in 1890. Three years later, on January 1, 1893, he was married to Mrs. Harriet Catherine (Elston) Clark, who was born in Grover Hill, Latta township, Paulding county, Ohio. She was the daughter of Levi and Cynthia Ann (Bennett) Elston. Mrs. Fraker was educated at Grover Hill and was married on December 18, 1881, to Harrison Clark, of Paulding county. They lived in Washington township on a farm. He died, June 29, 1892, and was buried in Paulding county. Mr. Clark served as a school director and was a prominent and influential member of the Christian church at the time of his death.

Levi Elston, the father of Mrs. Fraker, was a native of Dark county, Ohio, being born near Hill Grove on November 17, 1837. He died on September 26, 1901. His father was James Elston, who was also a native of Dark county. The Elstons were of German descent. Levi Elston was one of seven children, the others being Anna, Jane, Lydia, Mary, Louisa and John. Levi Elston and his brother both served in the Civil War. John lost an arm in the service and was wounded seven times. He took sick in camp and during this period was bravely nursed by his wife until he was well enough to join his comrades. James Elston and wife died near Grover Hill, Ohio. Cynthia Ann Bennett, the mother of Mrs. Fraker, was born in Dark county, Ohio, and was the daughter of William Bennett, who came from New Jersey. His wife was a native of Ireland. They settled in Dark county, Ohio, on a farm and had seven children, Mary, Cynthia Ann, Martha

E., Katherine, Edward, Jennie and William H. William H. served in the Civil War in an Ohio regiment and died of illness while in the service. About the close of the Civil War, William Bennett and wife, Mrs. Fraker's maternal grandparents, moved to Michigan and settled in Clinton county, where they lived until their death. Levi Elston and wife, the parents of Mrs. Fraker, were married near Grover Hill, Ohio, and settled in Latta township, Paulding county, on a farm at a time when it was a dense wilderness, where the wild animals roamed through the woods. They cleared the land and lived there a short time, but later moved to Washington township, where he died. His widow then made her home with her son, George, until her death. They had nine children, Harriet Catherine, who is now Mrs. Fraker; Mary L.; Samantha C.; John W.; Cora Isabelle; Josephine and George, all of whom live in Paulding county; Sylvia Ann and Amanda E., both of whom are deceased.

After the last marriage of Mr. Fraker, he came to his farm in Palmer township and here he and his wife have lived since that time. Mrs. Fraker has been a loyal and faithful helpmeet and has contributed to the improvement of the farm and the family fortune by her thrift and wise co-operation. They have never had any children, but Mrs. Fraker took Joseph S. Cattell to rear immediately after her first marriage. She has educated him and he has remained with her ever since. She has also reared Mary Clark, whom she took when she was five years old. Mary Clark married Al Pinkhaus and they now live in Decatur, Illinois.

Mr. Fraker is engaged in general farming. He sold twenty acres of his land about thirty-years ago and about twenty-five years ago, traded twenty-five acres for sixty acres in section 3, of Palmer township. Some time ago Mr. Fraker's house partly burned, but he has since rebuilt it, in which Mr. Fraker displayed great heroism in putting out the flames. He tore off part of the metal roof with his bare hands and for this feat has been widely admired by his neighbors. Formerly, Mr. Fraker was a member of the Masonic fraternity of Marks township, Defiance county. He served as school director for some years and is identified with the Democratic party. He is a member of the German Reformed church at New Bavaria and has served as trustee of the church. Mr. and Mrs. Fraker are charitable and hospitable people and substantial farmers. They are God-fearing people of the good old type, a type which is not so frequently met with now as formerly. Jacob J. Fraker is an intelligent citizen and has contributed much to the advancement of the community where he has lived so long.

## J. W. SMITH.

J. W. Smith, the son of Manley B. and Abigail (Pickerill) Smith, was born in Brown county, Ohio, on May 21, 1873. His father was a son of John G. and Keziah (Beveridge) Smith, and was born in Hocking county, Ohio, in 1845. John G. Smith was the son of Harrison Smith, a native of Pennsylvania and an early settler in Hocking county. Abigail Pickerill was born in Brown county, Ohio, the daughter of Josiah W. and Eleanor (West) Pickerill. Josiah W. Pickerill was born in Brown county, in 1818, a son of Samuel Pickerill, Jr., who was born in Kentucky in 1793, a son of Samuel Pickerill, Sr. Samuel Pickerill, Sr., was born in Charles county, Maryland, in 1757, and served for three years in the Revolutionary War in Captain Gallahue's company. This company was a part of Colonel Brent's regiment of Virginia troops. In 1792, Samuel Pickerill, Sr., came to Kentucky and in 1809 he moved to Brown county, Ohio, with his family, where he lived until 1850, dying at the age of ninety-three. Twelve children were born to Samuel Pickerill, Sr., and wife. Each one of these twelve children grew to maturity and reared families of their own, and by 1905 Samuel Pickerill, Sr., had over one thousand seven hundred descendants.

Eleanor West, the wife of Josiah W. Pickerill, was born in Brown county, Ohio, about 1820, and was the daughter of John and Lovina (Stewart) West. John West was born in 1797 and was the son of John and Eleanor West. John West, Sr., was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, serving in a Virginia regiment.

Manley B. Smith was a teacher in the public schools of Brown county for many years, but is now farming. J. W. Smith grew to maturity in Brown county and after finishing the public school course of his own township, became a student at Lebanon, Ohio, in the National Normal University. Later he was a student at the Northern Ohio Normal at Ada, and graduated from the latter school in 1894. Before he finished his college course, he had taught school a few years and, in fact he paid his way through college by teaching. In 1899 Mr. Smith came to Putnam county as superintendent of schools at Ottawa, and remained in this capacity for three years. In the meantime he studied law and, in 1902, was admitted to the bar. In politics he is a strong Democrat and from 1909 to 1913 held the office of prosecuting attorney of Putnam county. He has served on the state central committee of his party for six years.

J. W. Smith was married, in 1893, to Winifred Beck, a native of Brown county, Ohio, and a daughter of Herman and Sarah Beck. Mrs. Smith died in 1895, leaving two children, Winifred, who died a few months after her mother's death, and Lucile, who is now a student in college. In 1899 Mr. Smith married Mary Klein, a native of Brown county and a daughter of John and Catharine Klein, natives of Germany and now deceased. To this second union one son has been born, Stewart S., who is now eleven years of age.

Mr. Smith is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, is a thirty-second degree Mason and a noble of the Mystic Shrine. He also holds his membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

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#### H. F. RAUH.

A man of unusual attainments is H. F. Rauh, the editor of the *Der Demokrat* at Ottawa, Ohio. He spent several years, after leaving college, as a teacher, and is one of the leaders in educational matters in Putnam county for more than a quarter of a century. He is also an accomplished musician, and is one of the finest pipe-organists in the county. Since 1892 he has been associated with the *Der Demokrat* and has made this one of the ablest German papers in the whole state. Mr. Rauh is the kind of a man whose influence is always in behalf of higher and better things. In educational affairs, in church and in business his ideals are always high, and it can be safely said that he is one of the ablest men of his county.

H. F. Rauh, the son of Ignatius and Mary Anne (Weigelt) Rauh, was born on October 4, 1860, on a farm in Washington township, Mercer county, Ohio. His father was a millwright and came to this country from Germany when a young man and located in Mercer county. Mary Anne Weigelt also came to this country from Germany when young and located with her parents in Mercer county. Ignatius and Mary Anne (Weigelt) Rauh were the parents of six sons, the three eldest brothers becoming farmers, the fourth son a teacher, while the fifth son is H. F. Rauh, the subject of this sketch, and the sixth is a priest of the Catholic church. The father of these six sons died in May, 1869, and the mother was later deceased.

H. F. Rauh was educated in the district schools of Mercer county, Ohio, and later attended the high school one year at Ft. Recovery, and two

years in the schools at Celina. At the age of seventeen he began teaching and taught three years in Mercer county, and two years in Auglaize county, Ohio. However, wishing to get a better education, he stopped teaching and entered the Northern Normal School at Ada, Ohio, and also spent a few terms in the National Normal University at Lebanon. Afterward he spent two years in Pio Nono College, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he graduated with honors. It was in this college that he completed his German and musical education, specializing on the pipe-organ.

After graduating from Pio Nono College, in 1885, Mr. Rauh took charge of an academy in Denison, Texas, but after one year of successful work in that state he resigned in order to assume the superintendency of the Glandorf public schools. At the same time he became the organist of the St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf, and retained both positions for a number of years. Under his skillful management, the Glandorf schools were put in excellent shape and, without disparagement to previous instructors, it may be said that he was the best teacher which the schools had up to that time. While living in Glandorf, he helped to organize the Glandorf German Building and Loan Company and served as its first secretary for two years. In 1889 he was appointed school examiner of Putnam county, and was re-appointed in 1895. He has always taken a very active part in educational meetings and was elected president of the Putnam county teachers' institute in 1893. Before this time, however, he had become identified with *Der Demokrat*, a German newspaper in Ottawa. His connection with this paper began in May, 1892, and since March, 1893, he has been the sole proprietor of the paper, since which time Mr. Rauh has lived in Ottawa, where he has a beautiful home. He has been for a number of years a member of the Ottawa board of public affairs, and is also a director and stockholder of the Ottawa Building and Savings Association.

Mr. Rauh was married on July 26, 1893, to Mamie Anne Priesendorfer, a daughter of John M. and Elizabeth (Wilhelm) Priesendorfer, of Defiance, Ohio, and to this union seven children have been born, John Clarence, on September 18, 1894, died two weeks later; Carl H., November 7, 1895, deceased; Walter Ignatius, January 23, 1897; Agnes Lenore, December 17, 1898; Cornelius Anthony, September 21, 1900; Mary Bloise, February 5, 1905; James Emerson, died at the age of eleven months; Esther Irene, January 7, 1910.

Mr. Rauh and his family are all loyal members of the Catholic church. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Knights of Ohio, the Glandorf Aid Society and the Ottawa Aid Society. Mr. Rauh has always

given his hearty support to the Democratic party, but has never been a seeker after political preferment. Mr. Rauh is a man of genial disposition and a man whose breadth of view makes him an ideal newspaper man.

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### JAMES WILLIS LOWRY.

In the year 1837 the first member of the Lowry family located in Putnam county, Ohio, and since that year the family have borne an honorable part in the history of the county. The remote ancestors of the Lowry family were French Huguenots, who settled in the valley of the Loire in France in the sixteenth century, and from the name of this river the family name is derived. Originally, the name was spelled "De Loire," but when the family removed to Scotland later the name was anglicized to "Lourie," while the members of the family who located in Ireland gave it its present orthography, "Lowry."

Driven out of France on account of religious persecution, the family sought a home in England and later removed to Scotland, where they were gentlemen farmers and owned their own estate. Some of them were in Cromwell's army during the civil war, in England, in the middle of the seventeenth century. After the death of Cromwell and the end of the Commonwealth the family located in Ireland. When they first came to America the branch of the family which ultimately settled in Putnam county, Ohio, went from England to County Down, Ireland, and there Robert Lowry was born in 1749.

Robert Lowry was the first member of the family to come to America, and he located here in 1804 with his wife, Mary Johnston, and three sons, Robert, James and William. Another son, Johnston, came to the United States a year or so before that, and the whole family located on a farm of two hundred acres at Poland Center, Mahoning county, Ohio, for which they received a deed in 1811. The family were of high character, sober, honest, industrious, and were useful members of the church, and of the community in which they lived. They helped form the Poland Center Seceder church in 1804, of which Robert Lowry was one of the first elders. Their eldest son, Robert Lowry, Jr., born in Ireland in 1776, married Rebecca Stewart, a native of Scottish ancestry and high lineage. She was born in York county, now Adams county, Pennsylvania, in 1786, or the year following, and died in 1846, near Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio.



Robert and Rebecca (Stewart) Lowry moved to a farm near Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1837, having lived previous to their marriage in Mahoning county, where they were married in 1813. Rebecca Stewart was a daughter of Robert Stewart, who was a son of Samuel, a son of Robert, who in turn, was a son of John, a descendant from Walter, the first Stewart of Scotland. Walter Stewart was the second son of Alan, who was a Norman and came to England with William the Conqueror, and his descendants have sat on nearly every throne in Europe.

In May, 1837, Robert and Rebecca (Stewart) Lowry, began their life in Putnam county. He bought a farm on which he resided until his death, August 27, 1848. His wife died on June 9, 1846. Robert Lowry was short in stature, a great reader and probably the best educated member of the family.

Robert Johnstone Lowry, the eldest of their four children, and the father of James Willis, with whom this narrative deals, was born on September 10, 1816, at Poland Center, Mahoning county, Ohio. He came to Putnam county, with his parents, and here married Olive S. McConnell. She was born on January 24, at Windham, Portage county, Ohio, and was a daughter of Nicholas McConnell, who moved with his family to Leipsic in 1836, and bought a farm. The wife of Robert J. Lowry taught the first term of school in Liberty township, in Putnam county. She died on May 20, 1904, and she and her husband are both buried in the McConnell cemetery at Leipsic. Robert J. Lowry was a farmer in early life, but after his health failed he moved to Leipsic and opened a general store in 1850. In 1862 he moved to Urbana, Ohio, where he bought a store, and died on April 30, 1862. After his death, the family moved back to Leipsic, where his widow spent the remainder of her days. Robert J. Lowry was a Republican and served as justice of the peace for eight or ten years. Mr. and Mrs. Lowry and all of the family were members of the United Presbyterian church; he and his wife being among the founders of the Presbyterian church in Leipsic.

James Willis Lowry is the youngest of six children born to his parents. He was born a few months after his father's death and grew to manhood in West Leipsic. After his marriage he began farming on his present farm and has continued to reside there since that time. He and his brother, A. J., have about two hundred acres of land, well improved, and one of the best and most productive farms of the county.

In September, 1884, James W. Lowry was married to Nellie Lenhart, who was born on the farm where Mr. Lowry is now living, and who is a

daughter of Henry S. and Adeline (Braught) Lenhart. Her parents came from Pennsylvania to Salem, in eastern Ohio. Henry Lenhart was the sixth son of Jacob and Lydia Lenhart, and was born on December 3, 1823. Jacob Lenhart was a minister in the River Brethren church, and a son of Philip Lenhart, who lived near Ephrata, in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. Henry Lenhart settled west of Leipsic and was a life-long farmer.

J. W. and Nellie (Lenhart) Lowry have two children living and one deceased: Chloe, May 23, 1888, and died August 9, 1888; Serge, born on December 4, 1889, who married Mary Anderson, of Monmouth, Illinois, and Henry Forest, June 17, 1901. Mr. Lowry and his family are members of the United Presbyterian church, of Toledo. He is active in the welfare of his community along every line. He has been master of the Grange ever since it was organized, with the exception of two years, and is always active in the fight for temperance. He has served about fifteen years on the school board and has frequently acted as executor of estates, and has settled no less than ten estates, always giving uniform satisfaction in the administering of such duties. He has been a life-long Republican and has always taken an intelligent interest in the affairs of his party. Hospitality is a feature of the Lowry family, and the wayfarer is always sure to receive a warm and hearty welcome at their pleasant home.

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WILLIAM M. FRENCH.

The whole career of more than sixty years of William M. French has been spent within the limits of Putnam county, Ohio. He was reared and educated in the county, and after his marriage located on a farm in Van Buren township, where he has since resided. He has engaged in general farming and stock raising and his farm bears ample witness to the thrift and enterprise of its owner.

William M. French, the son of James and Catherine (Stout) French, was born at Gilboa, Putnam county, Ohio, on November 23, 1854. His father was born in Virginia and came to Putnam county, Ohio, when a small boy and made his home with Robert Steward. His parents had died when he was very young and Mr. Steward and his wife took him into their family and gave him a good home until he was grown. He attended the public schools at Gilboa and when a young man started in for himself by buying a grist-mill at Gilboa. He also assisted his future father-in-law on

the farm, who was one of the largest landowners in the township. In addition to operating the grist-mill, he learned the carpenter trade and worked at various times at this business. James French married Catherine Stout, a daughter of Elisha and Abigail Stout, natives of Licking county, Ohio, and to this union six children were born, Margaret, Elisha, Elizabeth, William M., Mary and James C. Margaret and Elisha died in infancy, and Elizabeth died unmarried. Mary became the wife of H. Higgenbottom, of Phoenix, Arizona, and has two children, Leo and Bertha, both of whom are married. James C. married Elizabeth Carr.

William M. French spent his boyhood days in Blanchard township, and received such education as was afforded by the district schools of his boyhood days. He continued to reside on the home farm with his parents, northeast of Gilboa, until he was thirty years of age, when he married and moved onto his present farm, where he has since resided.

Mr. French was married to Clara Guear, a daughter of David and Catherine (Conine) Guear. Her father came with his parents from Virginia when he was eight years of age and located in Licking county, Ohio, while her mother was a native of Licking county, and her grandmother a native of Connecticut.

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### JOHN G. YENNER, JR.

A retired farmer of Putnam county, Ohio, who is now making his home in Ottawa, is John G. Yenner, Jr., who was born in this county more than sixty years ago. He comes from sturdy German parentage, and has inherited from his ancestors those characteristics of the German people which insure success in whatever occupation they choose to direct their energies. Mr. Yenner has been a life-long farmer and when he retired from his farm in 1911 to spend his declining years in the county-seat, he owned three hundred and forty acres of excellent land in the county.

John G. Yenner, Jr., the son of John G. and Christina (Bauer) Yenner, was born in Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1852. His father was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, in 1820, and grew to manhood in his native country. Christina Bauer was born in Erdmanhausen, District of Marboch, in the kingdom of Wurttemberg, Germany, near the city of Stuttgart, on July 14, 1827. She passed away at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Pitney, in Leipsic, August 10, 1913, at

the age of eighty-six years and twenty-six days. She was united in marriage to John G. Yenner in 1849. They were both born in the same place and grew up and married there. In the spring of 1852 they came to America and after a short stop at Columbus, Ohio, and in Findlay, they located in Liberty township, Putnam county, where John G. Yenner, Jr., now has a splendid farm. Christina (Bauer) Yenner was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran church in her native land and continued faithful to the end. In her later years she lived as in the presence of God. Her chosen devotions were sweet and sacred to her. She loved to read sermons in the German language when she was no longer able to attend church. Her husband died eleven years before she did. After his death she lived with her daughters, Mrs. G. C. Mack and Mrs. George Pitney.

In his native land, John G. Yenner, Sr., was a cooper by trade, but after coming to America, devoted all of his time to farming. There were ten children born to John G. Yenner, Sr., and wife, Mrs. Mary M. Pitney, John G., Jr., George S., Mrs. Matilda Mack, Carl, William, Mrs. Pauline Schey, Mrs. Caroline Konst, Mrs. Annie Konst, and one who died in infancy.

John G. Yenner, Jr., received all of his education in the schools of Liberty township and lived on his father's farm until his marriage, at the age of twenty-two. He then operated his father-in-law's farm in Liberty township for two years, after which he built a house of his own and began farming for himself. He continued in active life on the farm until 1911, when he moved to Ottawa, where he now resides. During his long career on the farm he accumulated three hundred and forty acres of excellent land, nine acres of which is in Ottawa, and the remainder in Liberty township. He was an extensive stock raiser while on the farm and made it a rule to keep nothing but high grade stock. Altogether John G. Yenner, Jr., has four farms all in Liberty township and in a part of the county noted for its fine farms and fine country homes. Mr. Yenner's farm is counted one of the best and his buildings are among the most substantial.

Mr. Yenner was married in 1874 to Almira Clark, the daughter of Samuel and Malinda (Todd) Clark. Her parents came from Wayne county, Ohio, about 1845, and located in Blanchard township, Putnam county, where her father owned a farm and ran a blacksmith shop. Her father lived at various places while he followed the trade of a blacksmith, and also operated a saw-mill and grist-mill at Medary for some time.

John G. and Almira (Clark) Yenner are the parents of seven children, the first dying in infancy. The six living are as follow: Effie M., the widow of John H. Mullett, who died in 1910, and the mother of five chil-

dren, Floyd, Lola, Carl, Esta and Wava; Myrtle, who is at home; Harry, a farmer of Liberty township, who married Lydia Harter, and has two children, Doris and Clarence, the mother of these children dying in 1913; Lillie, the wife of Harry Haughn, of Medary, Liberty township, and the mother of four children, Gladys, Geneva, Thelma and Wilma; Zoe, the wife of Fred Hauk, a farmer of Liberty township, and the mother of two children, Richard and Robert; and Alva, who is managing the old homestead, married Bertha King and has two children, Madonna and Dale.

Mr. Yenner and his family are members of the Lutheran church. Fraternally, he is identified with the Free and Accepted Masons and is a member of the Reindeer lodge. He is a Democrat and took an active part in the civic life of his township. He served as trustee of Liberty township for two terms and for a number of years was a member of the school board.

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#### AUGUST H. WEHINGER.

The Ottawa Tile Company is one of the most important business concerns of Putnam county. In 1907 the four Wehinger brothers, August H., William A., Frank J. and Joseph C. bought the tile factory of C. B. Van Cleve, at Ottawa, which plant was located just south of the present factory of the Ottawa Tile Company. In 1911, the brothers organized the Ottawa Tile Company, the present officers of which are as follow: President, William A. Wehinger; secretary and treasurer, August H. Wehinger; vice-president, Frank J. Wehinger; general manager, Joseph C. Wehinger. In 1909 they built the present plant and have since enlarged it in order to take care of their constantly increasing business. They have four kilns and manufacture a great amount of drain tile, as well as hollow and solid brick.

August H. Wehinger, the son of Antone and Abby (Lenhart) Wehinger, was born on October 4, 1874, at Piqua, Ohio. His father was a native of Germany, coming to this country with his parents when a babe in arms. They located at Loramie, Shelby county, Ohio, and in that place Antone Wehinger grew to manhood and married Abby Lenhart, a native of Shelby county, Ohio, and a daughter of Adam and Mary Lenhart. Antone Wehinger was a shoemaker until 1897, and then engaged in the manufacture of tile at Gutman, Auglaize county, Ohio. Six years later he bought a farm in that county, near Wapakoneta, where he is now living.

Augustus H. Wehinger remained at home until his marriage. He

learned the tile-making business in his father's factory and assisted his father until 1907, when he came to Ottawa and engaged in the same business with his brothers.

On October 19, 1898, Augustus H. Wehinger was married to Mary Debbie Thrush, who was born near St. Johns, Auglaize county, Ohio, a daughter of B. R. and Margaret (Bailey) Thrush. Her father has been a life-long farmer and has lived all of his life on the farm where he was born. The Thrush family were pioneer settlers in Auglaize county. Mr. Wehinger and his wife are members of the Catholic church, and he is a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Fraternal Order of Eagles and other orders.

Joseph C. Wehinger was born in 1884 on his father's farm near Wapakoneta, Ohio. After receiving a good common-school education, he entered his father's tile factory, where he learned the business with his brothers. He remained at home until he was twenty-one years of age and then came to Ottawa and became a partner with his brothers in the tile factory at that place. He was married in 1906 to Odessa Irwin, who was born in Hardin county, Ohio, twelve miles west of Kenton, near the village of Roundhead, and is a daughter of Thomas and Mary (Keith) Irwin. Her father was formerly in the tile business at Kenton, but is now living a retired life at Geyer. Joseph C. Wehinger and wife have three children, Glenna Marie, Celia A. and Adelia Isabel. The family are all members of the Catholic church and Mr. Wehinger belongs to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. The wife of J. C. Wehinger is of Irish parentage on her father's side.

The Wehinger Brothers are excellent business men and their factory at Ottawa gives employment to several men. Their product is shipped all over this section of the state of Ohio, and their business is constantly increasing.

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#### THEODORE HASELMAN.

Farming has been the basis of many large fortunes, but fortunes from the farm are built up out of self-denial, industry, economy and good foresight. The German people have been successful farmers because possessed of all these qualities. For many years the Haselman family have been among the most prominent, enterprising and successful farmers of Putnam county, Ohio.

Theodore Haselman, a prominent and successful farmer of Liberty

township, was born in 1866, one mile west of where he is now living. He is a son of John and Catherine (Beihmer) Haselman. John Haselman was a native of Germany, his birth occurring at Munster, where he grew to manhood. While still a young man, he came to America, from Antwerp, the voyage occupying six weeks. He located first in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he worked as a box maker, afterward starting a box factory of his own. In 1863 he moved to Putnam county, Ohio, and purchased one hundred and twelve acres of land in the southern part of Liberty township, where he farmed the remainder of his life. His wife, Catherine Beihmer, was also a native of Munster, Germany, and came to this country when about twenty-three years of age, the ocean journey, owing to storms and icebergs, covering a period of three months, after which she was married to Mr. Haselman. They were the parents of nine children, of whom three are living, William, Catherine and Theodore.

Theodore Haselman grew up on the home farm and lived there until his marriage, on April 27, 1887, in which year he married Anna Schumacker, who was born at Glandorf, in this county, the daughter of Joseph John and Mary (Wellman) Schumacker. Joseph John Schumacker was born at Glandorf, Ohio, a son of Anthony Schumacker and wife, who came from Germany and settled at Glandorf, in this county, with the early pioneers. In those days it was necessary to carry grain to Findlay, Ohio, a distance of twenty miles, to have it ground, which was an inconvenience because of the time consumed in going to and from the mill. Anthony Schumacker and wife spent their lives at Glandorf. Joseph Schumacker was a carpenter and farmer, having learned the former trade when sixteen years of age. His wife, Mary Wellman, was born at Delphos, Ohio, the daughter of Conrad Wellman and wife, natives of Germany, who came to America about 1840. Joseph Schumacker spent most of his life at Glandorf, but now lives on a farm south of Ottawa. His wife died on October 4, 1886.

When John Haselman, the father of Theodore, arrived in America, he had no money, and was in debt. He made his own way entirely, starting with nothing and gradually working his way to the front. He first purchased a little place at Ottoville, but disposed of it later after a high flood, when he bought land in Liberty township, adding to it as he was able until, at the time of his death, he was worth over forty thousand dollars.

As soon as Theodore Haselman married, he began farming on his present farm. He had one hundred acres with which to start, but now owns two hundred and eight acres of fine farming land. He has overcome many difficulties during his career in this township. Mr. Haselman had a large family of fifteen children, losing three of them in seven months, and has

had eight deaths occur in his home. Theodore and Anna (Schumacker) Haselman have nine children living, Anna is the wife of Henry Wyant, and lives on a farm west of Leipsic. They have three children, Gilbert and Hildegard, twins, and Carmeleta. The other eight children are, Joseph, Aloysious, Lucinda, Adeline, Marcelline, Colletta, Estella and Theodore.

Mr. Haselman is enterprising, progressive and possessed of a genial disposition, and is well known throughout Putnam county as one of its best farmers. The Haselman family are all active and devout members of the Catholic church, in whose welfare they are deeply interested, and to whose support they are liberal contributors.

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### JOHN E. JONES.

Agriculture has always been an honorable vocation and at the present time the agricultural output of the United States is more than equivalent to the total output of all the factories of the country put together. There is one thing in the life of a farmer which distinguishes it from any other occupation. It is the farmer's ability to exist independent of other vocations. The merchant, the banker and the manufacturer are all dependent absolutely upon the farmer's crop. A famine throughout this country would bankrupt the strongest merchant, wreck the largest bank and close the most extensive factories. Business men can see their business collapse within a week, but nothing short of an earthquake can ruin the farmer. Land is and always has been, the most favorable financial investment. Panic may sweep the manufacturer out of his business over night, but the farmer can survive when every other business fails. Putnam county farmers are equal to those to be found anywhere in the world. Their history is largely the history of the material advancement of the county. Among these splendid farmers there is none more deserving of recognition than John E. Jones, of Pleasant township.

John E. Jones was born on December 24, 1870, in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio. He is a son of Philip and Area (Buckingham) Jones, whose history is to be found elsewhere in this volume in the life sketch of Charles Jones, of Pleasant township.

Mr. Jones left Allen county with his parents when one year old and came to Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio. After his marriage he left home and farmed for one year in Pleasant township and three years in



Riley township, Putnam county. In the latter township he owned forty acres of land, which he afterward sold and purchased eighty acres in Union township, in this county, and farmed on this place for three years, at the end of which time he sold and purchased the John Light farm, consisting of one hundred acres in section 22. He farmed this place for nine years, and again sold out, when he removed to his present farm of one hundred and three acres, in Pleasant township, on March 1, 1912. During that year Mr. Jones built a splendid new barn, thirty-six by sixty-two feet with slate roof, concrete floors and thoroughly modern in every respect. He has remodeled his house and lives in a splendid and comfortable home, thoroughly modern and up-to-date.

John E. Jones was married on December 24, 1893, to Laura Henderson, the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Hartman) Henderson. Thomas Henderson is a native of Shelby county, Ohio, who came to Putnam county in 1872. He moved to Allen county after his marriage and remained there for a period of four years, where he was a farmer. He then came to Putnam county and settled on a farm in Pleasant township. Here he rented land for a couple of years and then purchased one hundred and twenty acres in Pleasant township, about two and one-half miles northwest of Columbus Grove, where he farmed for four years, when he traded his farm for another tract of land about one-half mile north of Columbus Grove, which farm he operated for thirty-five years. Mr. Henderson now lives at Elmore, Ohio, and is near eighty years of age. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Columbus Grove and a school director and township supervisor, as well as township trustee for two terms. Incidentally, he was a stanch Republican, and a member of the United Brethren church. His wife was also a native of Shelby county, Ohio, her death occurring in 1894 on the homestead farm in Pleasant township, at the age of fifty-six years. She was a daughter of Jonathan Hartman. Thomas Henderson and wife were the parents of eight children, William, James and John are deceased; Laura is the wife of a Mr. Jones; Mary is deceased, and Edward is still living in Pleasant township. The seventh and eighth of these children died in infancy.

John E. and Laura (Henderson) Jones have had seven children, Stella died at the age of five years; the fourth child died in infancy; Anna, the youngest child, died at the age of ten months; Ruth, Clarence, Ralph and Lawrence are still living.

Mr. Jones is a Republican, and has always taken an active interest in local public affairs. He was township trustee of his home township for two

years, 1911 and 1912, and has been a member of the school board for some years, but is not active, however, at this time. He is a stanch member of the United Brethren church at Columbus Grove, in which denomination he is a trustee. The family are also members of the church and take an active interest in its welfare. Mr. Jones is congenial in his manner, possessed of a sterling character and is a good farmer, believing strongly in modern methods of agriculture and good roads. John E. Jones regards farming as a science and his success is largely due to the fact that he has farmed along scientific lines.

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### JOSEPH H. EDWARDS.

Civilization is a matter of organization of men and materials and lays out roadways, builds factories, equips them with machinery, educates men to the use of this machinery, all for the purpose of converting raw materials into useful commodities, men and materials being organized so as to build, manufacture, distribute and transport the necessities of life. The first necessity in organization is initiative. An initiative is imagination in action. Initiative does not imply merely the suggestion of the right things; men of initiative are men who carry their plans to a successful issue. Intelligent supervision of the labor of other men is a rare gift. Nine out of ten men do not possess it at all. Hardly one in ten thousand can do it well. That there are enormous differences in the casual power exerted by different minds, depending on their place of vantage in the social system, is, of course, true. Most men merely echo the prevailing opinion or swell the general tide of thought. The contribution of a single member of the mass is not comparable with that of an individual who occupies a place of prominence or authority. Such a mind operates at a source, coloring all that springs from it, or at a crucial point where every slight deflection is enormously magnified in the consequence. From such minds come the models of opinion; it is such minds that actuate the men of light and leading, the directors in the greater affairs of mankind. Happy is the community in which there are men possessed of such minds, men of initiative, the born leaders of society; men who instinctively and by inherent right, though modestly and with a reserve born of their intuitive sense of right proportion, take the direction of affairs in whatever course of action they decide upon. In Putnam county there are numerous examples of this sort, men who are acknowledged to be the natural



JOSEPH H. EDWARDS.



leaders in their several fields of action; leaders in the political, social and religious life of the county, directors in the financial affairs of the community and managers of great industrial concerns, and all are glad to do these men honor, for to their initiative and sense of direction much of the prosperity of the commonwealth is due. Among the men thus included none is better known or more highly regarded in the community in which his natural leadership so long has proved its value than Joseph H. Edwards, banker, manufacturer and capitalist, of Leipsic, this county, a brief and modest review of whose career is here presented, not only for the information of the present reader of this valuable historical work, but for the guidance of the future historian who may seek in these pages a proper reflection of the life of the present generation in this county.

Joseph H. Edwards was born in Licking county, Ohio, in the year 1852, the son of Thomas W. and Isabel (Huston) Edwards, the former of whom was the son of Walter Edwards, a native of Wales, who came to America with his parents when he was twelve years of age and was reared on a farm on which his parents located in Muskingum county, Ohio.

Walter Edwards grew to manhood on the paternal farm in Muskingum county and there married and reared his family, achieving by right of worth and industry, an honorable place in the community. There, in the year 1823, was born his son, Thomas W., who grew to manhood on his father's farm, receiving such education as the schools of that district were able to supply at that time. Thomas W. Edwards married Isabel Huston, a member of one of the pioneer families of Licking county, Ohio, and about the year 1861 came to Putnam county, locating his family on a farm three miles east of the town of Leipsic, where he remained until advancing years warned him to retire from the active life of the farm, whereupon he moved into the town of Leipsic and spent the rest of his life, his death occurring on December 3, 1905, his wife having predeceased him several years, her death having occurred in 1892. Thomas W. Edwards was a man of excellent parts, a fine farmer and a good citizen in all that much-abused term implies. His influence ever was exerted in behalf of good things and the people in that part of the county hold his memory and that of his gentle wife in the highest respect to this day.

To Thomas W. and Isabel (Huston) Edwards were born seven children, all of whom are now deceased save Joseph H., the immediate subject of this sketch; Mary, the wife of A. J. Hoffman, and Sarah, the wife of E. S. Perry. James and David Edwards died in infancy; W. W. Edwards, for many years a partner with his brothers in a business way, died in 1913, and

John, who also was for many years associated with his brothers in their extensive business interests, died in 1901.

Joseph H. Edwards was reared on the paternal farm east of Leipsic and, besides attendance on the district school in that neighborhood, received a course of several years of instruction in special schools conducted in Leipsic at that period. Upon reaching manhood's estate he, for three years, followed farming, but finding that this manner of living did not agree with his health, he sold his farm and for about twelve years was engaged in the hardware business in the town of Leipsic. At the end of this time he formed a partnership with his brothers, W. W. and John, and in connection with I. N. Bushing, engaged in the cooperage business, under the firm style of the Buckeye Stave Company. This company was incorporated in the year 1893 and prospered from the very start. Factories were established in Leipsic, Columbus Grove, Continental, Pleasant Bend, Ohio, and Elm Center, in this county, and as the demand for the company's product grew, other factories were established at various points in Ohio and southern Michigan, operating twenty cooperage plants for several years, being the largest manufacturers of stock barrel cooperage in the world at the time, the firm continuing the business so long as the accessibility of timber made profitable this form of industry. As fast as the timber was cleared from the large land holdings taken up by this company in this county, the land was drained and otherwise improved and brought under cultivation, much of this land proving so valuable that it still is held by the company, which owns about two thousand acres in Putnam county alone.

While thus engaged so extensively in the cooperage business, the Buckeye Stave Company established a bank at Leipsic and later a bank at Continental, this county, both of which are operated as private banks, the interests being held by the stockholders of the Buckeye Stave Company. These banks are classed as among the soundest and most prosperous financial institutions in this part of the state, the personal responsibility back of the two banks being more than two million dollars. The Edwardses also are stockholders in the National Bank of Commerce of Toledo, Ohio, and in the National Lime and Stone Company, of Carey, Ohio, while some of the stockholders in the Buckeye Stave Company also are interested in the Buckeye National Bank of Findlay, Ohio; the Toledo Machine and Tool Company, of Toledo, Ohio; the National Quarries Company, of Lima, Ohio, and many other enterprises. John Edwards died in 1901 and W. W. Edwards died in 1913, but their respective estates retained their interests in the stave company's extensive enterprises, having able representatives in the several departments of that company's multiplying activities.

In 1875 Joseph H. Edwards was united in marriage to Mary Folk, who was born in Licking county, Ohio, the daughter of Lorenzo and Calista (Adams) Folk, an old family of that section, and to this union five children were born, as follow: Flossie, who married C. D. Closson, of Circleville, Ohio, and has three children, Helen, Dorothy and Catherine; Mae, who married C. P. Palmer, cashier of the Continental Bank, at Continental, Ohio, and has one son, Paul; Serge F., born on May 25, 1884, who is in the bank at Leipsic with his father, married Myrtle Burke and has two children, Mary and Joseph; Helen, who died in 1912, at the age of nineteen years, and an infant daughter who died in 1896.

Mr. Edwards and his family are members of the Methodist church and are earnest participants in the various activities of that organization, their influence ever being exerted in behalf of all movements designed to advance the common interest. Though not what may be called a "party man" in the stricter sense of the term, Mr. Edwards gives his thoughtful consideration to the political affairs of the county, his voice and his vote ever being enlisted in behalf of good government. Naturally, in view of his wide business interests in this and neighboring counties, Mr. Edwards unconsciously wields a large influence on men and affairs in this part of the state and it is but proper to state that this influence only is exerted on the side of those things that are true and of good report. Without thought of creating invidious distinctions among individuals in such personal mention of the prominent citizens of Putnam county as is made in this volume, the biographer feels properly warranted in making the statement here that Mr. Edwards is a man of whom his community and this entire county may well be proud, a man whom all his friends honor and take delight in so doing. Both in his business and in his private life he is an exemplary citizen, modest and quiet in his demeanor and courteous to all. Modestly sensible of the high position which his extensive activities give him, he would be the last to abuse the power such a position entails and, therefore, enjoys the respect and esteem of all within his very large circle of friends and acquaintances.

Mr. Edwards is an enthusiastic supporter of all legitimate public improvements and there are few men in Putnam county who are more actively concerned in promoting the larger interests of the community. It hardly is fitting in a review of this character to refer to an individual's private benefactions, but it properly enough may be stated that it is an open secret that there are many persons in the neighborhood of his home who, in times of need, have had cause for gratitude that Mr. Edwards not only has a tender ear for the cry of distress, but an open hand to supplement the appeal.

## HENRY J. LAMMERS.

In making up the list of the progressive and successful farmers of Putnam county for presentation in the biographical section of a work as comprehensive as the one in hand, the name of the well-known Liberty township farmer, whose name heads this sketch, comes easily to mind, for he is one who has succeeded by force of inherent qualities which make him one of the leaders in the community in which his entire life has been spent and where his parents had lived before him, and it is but fitting that this sketch of his life should here be preserved for the consideration of the future historian who may take up the important work of reviewing the history of this section. The history of a commonwealth is but the aggregate of the individual histories of the various units which compose the commonwealth and of the manifold factors which operate in creating the distinctive community. Of these factors none is more important than the farmer and the biographies of the farmers, who have done so much toward creating the wealth and distinction of Putnam county, will be regarded as very valuable contributions to the history of this time when this history is reviewed in after years. The name of Henry J. Lammers of Liberty township is, therefore, gladly added to this important list by the present biographer.

Henry J. Lammers was born on January 8, 1868, on the farm on which he still lives on the south edge of Liberty township, Putnam county, the son of Barney, Sr., and Theresia (Recker) Lammers, well-known residents of that section of the county, a sketch of whose careers is given on another page of this volume.

Henry J. Lammers was but five years of age when death bereft him of his mother. The father, however, kept the home together and young Henry grew up under careful direction, receiving his education in the schools of his home township and learning the ways of a farmer's life. Upon coming to young manhood he accepted the management of a second farm which his father owned on the north edge of Ottawa township, where he remained until the time of his marriage, at which time he moved back to the home farm in Liberty township, which he ever since has made his home.

On November 27, 1889, Henry J. Lammers was united in marriage to Eva Mary Bock, who was born near New Cleveland, in Ottawa township, Putnam county, a daughter of Nicholas and Catherine (Otto) Bock, who for years were among the best-known German residents of that part of the county.



Nicholas Bock was born near Coblenz, in the Rhine province of Germany, and about the year 1852 came to America with his mother and sisters, among others in the party, which at that time joined the German colony in this county, being the family of Nicholas Otto, of whom the latter's daughter Catherine was one. In Cleveland, upon their arrival in this state, Nicholas Bock and Catherine Otto were married and the young bridegroom and his father-in-law bought in Ottawa township, Putnam county, a farm of eighty acres, the place on which Val Mack now lives, south of New Cleveland. Nicholas Otto was a maker of shoes in the old country and upon coming to this county followed this trade in connection with his farm work, his handicraftsmanship being much appreciated by his new neighbors. After many years of residence in this county, he moved to Deschler, later returning to Putnam county, taking up his residence in Ottawa, where he spent the remainder of his life.

When Nicholas Bock took up his residence in this county about 1852, the section where he settled was virgin forest. Until he and his father-in-law could build a cabin, the family was given the occupancy of the neighborhood school house. The cabin which was quickly thrown up, later gave way to a much better house, which is still standing. Nicholas Bock was a good farmer and also a good shoemaker. Until later in life he remained on the farm in Ottawa township and then he and his wife moved to Leipsic, in this county, where Mrs. Bock, some years later, died. The death of Mr. Bock occurred some years after the death of his wife, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Laubenthal, south of New Cleveland.

Nicholas and Catherine (Otto) Bock had twelve children, of whom the only present survivors are Mrs. Lammers, Mrs. John Nadler and Mrs. John Laubenthal; those who have gone before being Susan, who married Henry Beckers; Rosa, who married Henry Kolhoff; Dena, who married Albert Busching; Jacob; Andrew; Nicholas; Valentine, and three who died in infancy. Nicholas Bock had a sister who was reared in a convent at Minster and who eventually became the Sister Superior of the convent.

After his marriage, Henry J. Lammers moved to the old home place in Liberty township, where he was born, and ever since he made his home and where he has reared his family. To his union with Eva Mary Bock seven children were born, Edward H., who married Theresia Klausning and lives in Liberty township; Anna Theresia, who married Theodore Jerivers and died August 29, 1914, leaving two children, Clara Henrietta and Esther Emma; Albert Barney, at home; Regina Catherine, died at the age of eleven

years and five months; Veronica Catherine, at home; Frances Theresia, at home, and Rosa Elnore, who died at the age of four years and seven months.

Mr. Lammers is a man of prominence in his neighborhood and takes an active part in the affairs of the community. He is an earnest follower of the principles of Thomas Jefferson and his counsels are regarded as valuable by the local managers of the Democratic party, his services during the past eight years as precinct committeeman for that party having gained for him general political recognition over the county. In January, 1908, he was appointed to the important and responsible position of director of the county infirmary and for four years held that position, his administration of the affairs of that trying office giving general satisfaction. Since retiring from that position he has added to his general farm work the business of buying and selling live stock, shipping in carload lots, in which business he has been quite successful.

The members of the Lammers family are devoted adherents of the Catholic church at New Cleveland and are active in the various beneficences of their parish, being regarded as among the leaders in the movements which seek to advance the general welfare of the neighborhood, and very properly are held in the highest esteem by all who know them. Mr. Lammers is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, in the local doings of which fraternal organization he takes much interest.

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#### ISAAC H. BARNES.

No more substantial and moral citizen has ever come to Putnam county, Ohio, than Isaac H. Barnes, a well-known farmer of Jennings township. As a man, Mr. Barnes has been characterized by industry and a patience which overcomes all obstacles, and thus insures success in whatever undertaking one may choose to follow. Putnam county has been honored by many successful and enterprising farmers, but none of them is more honored or more highly respected than Mr. Barnes, who served his country faithfully during the dark days of the Civil War, and afterward won a comfortable competence for his old age by dint of hard work and persistent labor, and who is now living retired.

Isaac M. Barnes was born on October 7, 1840, in Jackson township, Guernsey county, Ohio, the son of Levi and Susanna (Rogers) Barnes. Levi Barnes was born in Knox county, Ohio, and his wife was born in Maryland.

The former was a carpenter and also a shoemaker by trade. He died in April, 1846, while yet a young man, while his widow survived him many years, her death occurring in Union county, Ohio, in 1867.

Isaac H. Barnes was one of eight children born to his parents, but he is the only one now living. He moved from Guernsey county to Union county, Ohio, in 1855, working in the latter county by the day at farm labor.

On March 19, 1861, Mr. Barnes was married to Almata Dunlap, the daughter of Robert Dunlap, of Union township, in this county. Eleven children were born to Isaac and Almata (Dunlap) Barnes, nine of whom are still living, Rachel, the wife of E. Chamberland, of Raimer, Ohio; Robert Lester, who died at the age of thirty years, in April, 1895; Lola, who became the wife of Samuel Swihart, died on May 13, 1895; William E., of Jennings township; Hattie, the wife of A. Wessenbarger, and lives in Jennings township; Cora, the wife of Samuel Swihart; John W., a resident of Jackson township; Enoch, of Jennings township; Otto, also of Jennings township; Aaron, at home, has charge of the farm, and Rella is the wife of Jesse Jenkins, of Jennings township.

Isaac H. Barnes came to Putnam county on December 21, 1869, and settled on the farm where he now lives. Clearing away the timber, he built a small cabin and set to work at clearing and developing his land. He now has good buildings and a finely improved farm. Mr. Barnes has retired from hard labor, but still lives on the farm and retains his personal supervision of the farm labor.

During the early days of the Civil War, when the country was demanding the services of its brave and valiant sons, he enlisted in the Union army, and was a member of Company K, Ninety-sixth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, remaining with this regiment until the close of the war, and was mustered out of service in Mobile, Alabama, June 7, 1865. He was paid off at Columbus, Ohio, July 29, of the same year. Mr. Barnes participated in several of the hard-fought battles of that great conflict, taking part in the battle of Arkansas Post, Chickasaw Bluffs, Port Gibson, and at Raymond, near Vicksburg, as well as Champion Hills, Black River Ford, Siege of Vicksburg, Jackson, Mississippi, Fort James, Fort Morgan and Mobile, Fort Blakely and Fort Spanish, the last a little skirmish near Shistler, Alabama. Mr. Barnes was detailed in the Seventeenth Ohio Battery, Light Artillery, in the rear of Vicksburg and served with this organization for about sixteen months.

Isaac H. Barnes is a man well known in this section of Putnam county. He is remembered today and honored for his valiant services in behalf of the

cause of the Union, when there was serious doubt as to whether the Union would endure. Mr. Barnes has been a useful citizen in times of peace and it is fortunate that in his declining years he has been blessed with a competence which no longer makes his toil and labor necessary.

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#### HERMAN H. BORGELT.

When a notable success is gained by sheer effort, determination and ability, immensely greater credit is due than if the man who succeeded had started with plenty of means and a good education. Herman M. Borgelt secured only the meager rudiments of an education, as it was necessary that he go to work at an early age. By thrift and industry he was enabled to buy his present farm of eighty acres in Liberty township, in the spring of 1906. At the time of purchase the land was wooded, but Mr. Borgelt cleared the land, dug drainage ditches, and built fences, as well as buying an additional forty acres. The property is well improved, has fine, modern buildings, and is devoted to general farming with notable results. This story should be a powerful incentive to the young farmer of today, with all his wonderful advantages.

The birth of Mr. Borgelt occurred in Glandorf, Ottawa township, Putnam county, and he is the son of William and Tracy (Slater) Borgelt. Mr. Borgelt had the following nine sisters and brothers: Ignatz, Frank and Henry, all deceased; Joseph; William; Mrs. Theresa Ellerbrock; Mary, deceased; Mrs. Katherine Remp, and Mrs. Philomena Karl.

William Borgelt was a native of Glandorf, Germany, where he was married before coming to America. He was born on December 15, 1818, and died on the Ottawa township homestead on February 22, 1905. When he first came to America he bought forty acres and later added three tracts, two of forty acres and one of fifty acres. He had two farms in Ottawa township, one of ninety acres and one of eighty acres. He later bought three eighty-acre tracts, located in Ottawa, Pleasant and Union townships, which he divided among his daughters. Although he was a public-spirited man, he was a home lover who took keen interest in his farm ventures, which were usually successful. He was greatly aided by his wife, who was a devoted helpmeet and mother. She was a native of Glandorf, Germany, where she was born on November 30, 1840, and she died on the homestead, April 14, 1911.

The boyhood of Herman Borgelt was passed on the home farm and he received a slight education in the township schools. He worked on the homestead farm until he was twenty-nine years of age, when he rented a farm on which he lived for three years, finally buying as related in the first paragraph of this article.

On November 7, 1889, Mr. Borgelt married Anna Nartker, the daughter of Ferdinand and Mary (Feltman) Nortker, the former being a native of Glandorf, Germany, and the latter a native of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. Herman H. and Anna (Kartker) Borgelt are the parents of thirteen children, namely: Margaret, who died at the age of three; Matthew, who died at the age of two; the remainder of the children, who all live at home, are, Tracy, Monica, Lewis, Ferdinand, Edward, Sylvester, Alphonse, Hubert, Bernard, Harry, and Lucile.

Mr. Borgelt is an active Democrat and a member of the school board. He and his family are members of the New Cleveland Catholic church. He is an advocate of good roads and is at present foreman of construction of a road which is being built past his farm. Congenial, progressive, and a hard worker, Mr. Borgelt is a good neighbor and has a high standing in his community.

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### JOHN W. MILLER.

Among the progressive farmers of Putnam county who are respected and admired for the part they have had in promoting the general progress and prosperity of this county is John W. Miller, a well-known farmer of Blanchard township. It has been a comparatively short time since this county was covered with heavy trees, dreary swamps and was overrun by the Indians. Sturdy men have had a part in the transformation of this wilderness and vast sea of water, where now are to be found fertile farms and comfortable and commodious farm buildings. In every community in Putnam county there are leaders in agriculture and business, men who have been fortunate in their struggle for success, and who are the pride of their community. Among these men is John W. Miller.

Mr. Miller was born on April 16, 1866, in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Joseph Henry and Sarah (Clark) Miller. His boyhood days were spent on the old homestead farm, and here he lived until he reached the age of twenty-three years, when, on October

4, 1887, he was married to Stella J. Agner, the daughter of James B. and Susan (Bemont) Agner.

After his marriage, Mr. Miller operated his father's farm for ten years and then purchased Hillcrest farm, better known as the old Hardin farm, three and one-half miles east of Ottawa on the River road. Mr. Miller is interested in the breeding of thoroughbred live stock, which he raises for his own private purposes. Nothing appeals to his nature more than fine horses, and Shorthorn cattle and Shropshire sheep are his favorite breeds. He is a live-wire farmer in his own community; a general promoter of all public improvements, and has done much toward the extension of the good roads system in his own township. He lays much of his success to the fact that he is thoroughly in love with his chosen occupation.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller are the parents of three children: Pansy L. was born on February 15, 1891, and was married to Ray W. Sheilder on April 9, 1914, and resides four miles east of Leipsic on the Ridge road. To them was born, on March 11, 1915, Esther Estella Sheilder. This little granddaughter has already completely won the affections of her devoted grandparents. Cort C. was born on June 11, 1893, and Merl E. was born on October 3, 1895. Both sons live at home with their parents.

Politically, Mr. Miller is a Democrat, but his politics are governed by principle, not party. He is well known in his community as a substantial farmer and good citizen, and well worthy of representation in the annals of his county.

The paternal grandparents of John W. Miller were John Henry and Sophia C. (Egler) Cook-Miller. John Henry Miller was born near Stuttgart, Wurttemberg, Germany, in 1795, and was a gardener. He first located at Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, after coming to this country, and in 1836 came to Ohio. To Mr. and Mrs. John H. Miller was born one son, Joseph H. Miller, March 11, 1838. They settled in Putnam county in 1837, entering one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 19 of Blanchard township. John H. Miller died in 1850 and his wife in 1865.

Joseph H. Miller was married, June 20, 1861, to Sarah Clark, the daughter of James and Jane Clark. James D. Clark was one of the early settlers of Ottawa township, this county. An interesting incident of this pioneer's struggles can be recalled. Mr. Clark had dug a well nineteen feet deep and had walled it in with boulders; but, the water failing, he went into the well to clean it, when the wall caved in. His wife raised an alarm, but the nearest help was one mile away. The few citizens of Ottawa

township at that time assisted in rescuing Mr. Clark, he having been confined over six hours. He was not seriously hurt.

After the marriage of Joseph H. Miller and Sarah Clark they settled on the old Miller homestead, just west of what is now the county infirmary. Here Mr. Miller engaged in general farming. He was especially proficient in horticulture, raising all varieties of fruit. He and his wife were the parents of twelve children, three of whom, including a pair of twins, died in infancy, and another daughter, Eva, died at the age of two and one-half years. The eight children who lived to maturity are: Mary (Kersh), born on May 10, 1862; Elizabeth J. (Maidlow), born on April 1, 1864, who died on December 29, 1900; John W., born on April 16, 1866; Margery A. (Harris), born on August 28, 1868; Lucy E. (Heiffelmire), born on April 2, 1871; James E. and Clara E. (Hummons), twins, born on April 4, 1874, and Alonzo, born on October 7, 1888. Eva Ann, born on November 9, 1878; Cortie and Cora, twins, and a son died in infancy.

Mrs. Sarah M. (Clark) Miller died on January 12, 1890. Seven years later, on October 20, 1897, Mr. Miller was married to Catherine Mack. She was the daughter of John Philip and Barbara (Glowner) Mack, and was born on July 13, 1851. Mr. and Mrs. Miller lived on the home place until within a year of Mr. Miller's death, when they retired from the farm to Ottawa, Ohio. Here Mr. Miller died on November 12, 1913.

The wife of the immediate subject of this sketch, Mrs. Stella J. Miller, was the daughter of James B. and Susan Bemont Agner. James Agner and wife were early pioneers in Putnam county, and his wife, who before her marriage was Susan Bemont, was the daughter of Jesse and Catherine (Gross) Bemont. She was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, May 21, 1837. At the age of eight years she, with her parents, emigrated to this county, which was then a dense forest. They traveled in a covered wagon and settled on a claim of eighty acres which now lies four miles east of Ottawa on the Ottawa and Gilboa pike. Susan Bemont was married in Putnam county on August 21, 1856. James Agner was the son of George and Rachel (Mocherman) Agner, and was born on June 12, 1825, in Fairfield county, Ohio. He settled in Putnam county in 1833. Mr. Agner was interested in educational pursuits and was one of the early teachers in this part of the state. Later he followed the occupation of a farmer, at which he was very successful. James Agner and his wife were the parents of seven children: James B., born on May 15, 1857; Mary C. (Crow), born on August 2, 1859; Luella L., born on May 21, 1861; Belle A. (Miller), born on May 13, 1863; John C., born on January 4, 1865; Avis N., born

on October 28, 1866, who died on February 27, 1867, and Stella J., born on March 1, 1868. Three children were born to Mr. Agner by a former wife: Delilah, born on August 5, 1850, who died on September 30, 1851; Myra (Ridge), born on August 15, 1852, and Jemima A. (Cherry), born on May 21, 1854, who died on March 21, 1895. The father, James B. Agner, died on October 1, 1872. Mrs. Agner's two brothers, David and Joel Bemont, died in the Union army in 1865. Mrs. Agner always resided on the farm which her parents settled, until her death, which occurred on March 1, 1910.

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#### ALBERT BURKHART.

The record of Albert Burkhart is that of a man who has worked his way from a modest beginning up to a position of considerable prominence by his efforts, practically unaided, which fact renders him the more worthy of the praise that is freely accorded him by his fellow men. His life has been one of unceasing industry and perseverance and the notably systematic and honorable methods he has followed have won for him the unbounded confidence and regard of all who have formed his acquaintance and, in looking over the list of Putnam county's successful farmers, particularly those whose place of residence is in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, none are deemed more worthy of representation in a work of this nature than the gentleman whose name appears above.

Albert Burkhart was born on March 27, 1871, on the farm in Union township, where he now lives, and is the son of John and Sarah (Clevenger) Burkhart, the former came from Reading, Pennsylvania, and the latter was a resident of Union township. John Burkhart, with his sister and her husband, Amos Beam, came to Putnam county, Ohio, about the time he arrived at mature age. John Burkhart was a shoemaker by trade and acquired a knowledge of that business during his youth in Pennsylvania. After his arrival in that county, he met and married Sarah Clevenger, then rented the old Isaac McCracken farm. Three years later he bought himself a farm, consisting of one hundred and sixty-four acres, and lived on it until his death. Mr. Burkhart was a supporter of the Democratic party, a devout member of the Methodist church, and at one time served the community in the office of township trustee. After his death, his wife again married, this time to William Rambo, and they reside in Kalida. By the first marriage, Mrs. Burkhart gave birth to the following children:



William, Albert, Milton, Hattie, Paul, Rosa, deceased, and August. Of these children, August married Tizbie Smith and now lives in Union township; Hattie is the wife of Albert Stumpf and lives in Union township; Milton married Nora McDonald, and William married Myrtle Sarber and now resides in Lucas county.

Albert Burkhart was educated in the county schools and in his youth lived on the farm with his parents. After attaining his majority, he rented a farm with his brother, upon which he resided for about ten years, then acquired the old homestead farm by purchasing the interests of the other heirs to it. On April 29, 1904, he was married to Nora Johnson, daughter of Joseph and Susan Johnson. To her parents were born, Margaret, Chloie, Belle, Albert, Frances, David, and the wife of our subject, Nora. Albert and Nora (Johnson) Burkhart have two children, Emerson, born on January 30, 1905, and Paul, on July 24, 1908.

Mr. Burkhart is a supporter of the principles of the Democratic party, and is a member of the Christian church, to the support of which he contributes of his means. Besides carrying on a general farming business, special attention is given to dairy cattle, and being the absolute owner of two hundred and thirteen acres of fine land, equipped with well-arranged and commodious buildings, Mr. Burkhart enjoys, to a marked degree, the esteem of his neighbors and friends and is a true type of the enterprising, representative citizen, and intelligent, high-minded, courteous gentleman whom to know is to esteem and honor.

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#### EDGAR DECK.

The Deck family have been living in Putnam county, Ohio, since 1870, and for the past forty-five years have been identified with the history of Blanchard township.

Edgar Deck, the eldest son of John Michael and Elvira (Davis) Deck, was born on June 3, 1867, in Crawford county, Ohio. His father was born on December 3, 1836, in Bucks county, Pennsylvania. At the age of twenty-two years he immigrated to Richland county, Ohio. Our country was then in the throes of the Civil War and he heard his country's call and enlisted in a volunteer battery under Capt. George Kirkland. After the expiration of his first enlistment, he re-enlisted and served till the end of the war, receiving an honorable discharge at Columbus, Ohio, on June 26, 1865.

On November 11, 1866, John M. Deck was united in marriage with Elvira Davis and to this union eight children were born, Edgar, Cloyd, Charles, Harry, Chester and two daughters and a son who died in infancy. Harry passed away on March 15, 1915, at the age of forty-one years.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Deck lived at Bucyrus, Ohio, moving, in 1870, to Putnam county, where he conducted a saw-mill and also agriculture. He invested his money in land, accumulating four hundred acres, located in Van Buren and Blanchard townships. This farm he divided among his five sons, Mr. and Mrs. Deck moving to Leipsic about seven years ago. John M. Deck passed away on June 1, 1915, at the age of seventy-eight years, five months and twenty-eight days.

Edgar Deck was three years of age when his parents located in Putnam county. On November 24, 1888, he was united in marriage with Agnes Buckland and to this union were born seven children: Bertha, who died in infancy; Sanford, who was killed on April 16, 1915, at the age of twenty-four years, by an explosion of dynamite; Mabel; Earl; Zelma; Max, who died at the age of fifteen months, and Imo, who died at the age of three months.

After his marriage, Edgar Deck remained on his father's farm until 1901, when he moved to Leipsic, where he conducted a pool room, threshing during the summer seasons. In 1908 he moved onto his father's farm, which the latter afterward gave to him. While he raises good crops, he still conducts his threshing machine and gives particular attention to the feeding of live stock, having found that the major portion of his income is derived from that source.

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### JOHN KEHRES.

That life is the most useful which results in the greatest good to the greatest number. Though all do not reach the heights to which they aspire, yet in some measure each can reach success, and make life a blessing to his fellow men. It is not necessary for one to occupy eminent public position to do so, for in the other walks of life there remains much good to be accomplished and many opportunities for the exercise of talent and influence that will in some way touch the lives of those with whom we come in contact, making them better and brighter. In the list of Putnam county's successful citizens, John Kehres, a prosperous farmer of Jackson township, has long occupied a prominent place. In his career there is much that is commendable. His life forcibly illustrates what a man of energy can accomplish when plans

are wisely laid and actions are governed by right principles, noble aims and high ideals.

John Kehres, a well-known farmer of Jackson township, Putnam county, Ohio, who now lives on the old homestead farm which he inherited from his father and where he was born on February 27, 1862, is the son of Sebastian and Barbara (Hintzman) Kehres.

Sebastian Kehres was born in Reunzenheim, Alsace, France, on January 22, 1816. He was educated in his native land and there learned the carpenter trade. Sebastian Kehres was the sixth in a family of nine children. The other eight were Valentine, Magdalena, Michael, Catherine, Anna, Joseph, John and George. Sebastian Kehres served faithfully for six years in the army of his Fatherland and in 1845 was married to Barbara Hintzman, the daughter of Joe and Margaretha (Lang) Hintzman. She was born on December 21, 1826. They were married in France and lived there until March 25, 1857, when they took passage for America. They located in New Riegel, Seneca county, Ohio, where Sebastian Kehres followed the occupation of farming. He purchased a tract of land of forty acres in 1861 and moved to Putnam county a little later, buying one hundred and sixty acres of land in this county. This land was improved to an excellent state of cultivation. Adversities came, however, in 1885, when his home was destroyed on May 15, of that year. He then built a fine residence, in which he lived until his death, on April 2, 1892. His widow survived him and died on January 9, 1896, at the age of seventy years. She was a faithful member of the Catholic church.

Sebastian Kehres was a Democrat in politics, and held several minor offices, among which was that of township supervisor and school director, for several years. Sebastian and Barbara Kehres had ten children.

John Kehres, the subject of this sketch, lived on his father's farm and received his education in the common schools of the township. He was a faithful and industrious lad in all of his work and an invaluable aid to his father and mother.

Mr. Kehres was married on June 6, 1895, to Anna Helmkamp, the daughter of Barney and Clara (Grewe) Helmkamp. She was born in Ottoville on September 24, 1867, and there was educated. Her father was a native of Ohio and died on December 26, 1875. Her mother was born in Hanover, Germany, July 24, 1846. She married again, the second time, after the death of her husband, to Bernard Schlagbaum.

To Mr. and Mrs. John Kehres eight children have been born, seven of whom are now living, Hildegard, who lives at Akron, Ohio; Victoria and

Anna, who are at home; Melinda, who died at the age of two years; Casimer, Henrietta, Amelia and Barbara, all of whom also live at home.

John Kehres owns one hundred and twenty acres of well-improved land in Jackson township. He has the very best buildings and has put up almost all of them since he came into possession of this land. He makes a specialty of raising thoroughbred Percheron horses and has a good grade of stock of all kinds.

Mr. Kehres is a Democrat and has been township trustee for several years. He is also a member of the Jackson township school board. All of the members of the Kehres family are affiliated with the Catholic church at Ottoville, and Mr. Kehres is a liberal contributor to the support of this church. He is an influential citizen and highly respected by all the people of Jackson township.

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#### GEORGE A. BURKHOLDER.

The whole career of George A. Burkholder has been spent in Putnam county, Ohio, where he was brought by his parents a few months after his birth in Pennsylvania. His father was a carpenter and he followed the same trade himself until a few years ago, since which time he has been engaged in general farming and stock raising in Van Buren township. He now has a well-improved farm, on which he raises all the crops peculiar to this section of the state.

George A. Burkholder, the son of Alfred and Mary Ann (Wolf) Burkholder, was born in Perry county, Pennsylvania, on June 11, 1861. Alfred Burkholder was born in the same county in 1831, a son of Joseph and Caroline Burkholder. He grew to manhood in Pennsylvania and married Mary Ann Wolf, the daughter of George and Mary Ann Wolf, natives of Pennsylvania and Scotland, respectively. Mary Ann Wolf, the maternal grandmother of George A. Burkholder, was a native of Scotland, coming to this country, when she was very young, with her parents.

Alfred Burkholder was a carpenter by trade and in 1861 removed from Pennsylvania to Putnam county, Ohio, where he located in Liberty township. Within a short time after settling in Putnam county, he enlisted in the Eighty-eighth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served throughout the war. He was assigned to guard duty at the Federal prison in Franklin, and did not see active service at the front. After the war he returned to Putnam county, and continued his trade as a carpenter until his death. Seven children

were born to Alfred Burkholder and wife, George A., of Putnam county; Florence, who married Emery Warden, and has two children; Joseph, who married Effie Dick, and has four children; Delia, who married Sherman Hamon, and has three children; Jasper, unmarried; Lula, who is the wife of Edward Emmons, and has two children; Ardella, the wife of Terry Connor.

George A. Burkholder was educated in the common schools of Liberty township, and remained at home until his marriage. As a young man he had learned the carpenter trade with his father, and after his marriage he continued to follow the carpenter and contracting business in this county. A few years ago he was injured in such a way that he was unable to continue his work as a carpenter, and since that time has devoted himself to general farming and stock raising.

Mr. Burkholder was married on November 25, 1890, to Lydia Toman, the daughter of George and Elizabeth Toman, natives of western Pennsylvania. Mrs. Burkholder was born in Putnam county, Ohio. To their union have been born four children, Elizabeth, Howard, Bon Ware and Harry, all of whom are single and still living with their parents.

Mr. Burkholder is a member of the Church of God, while his wife holds her membership in the Church of Christ. Mr. Burkholder and his family are highly esteemed in the community where they have lived for the past quarter of a century, and they have many warm friends who admire them for their many good qualities of head and heart.



















**Paul H. Ritchey**  
Books, Magazines, Maps  
Box 32 Penn Yan, N. Y.











